

House Bill 77 is part of the legislation that is geared toward the concerns of the parents, employers schools, daycares and most important our children. To date there is no place to send our children that become ill during the working hours. Our Daycares are not set up to provide care to our children who are ill let alone provide extra steps to keep the daycare sanitized to prevent others from becoming ill.

To begin with it is a very stressful time for parents with school age children to find a daycare that they feel will have employees that will be competent, compassionate and reliable to care for their children.

So now the child has become ill and the parent has a decision to make whether they call off from work or send their child to daycare knowing they don't feel and also know the policy states no sick child but they send them anyway hoping no one says anything or they get a call at work to come get their child and if this happens are they going to get reprimanded by the employer.

Raising a family on one or two incomes is difficult in itself when everything is going smooth but it's that 1 -3 days off that upsets the family budget also possibility of other children in the family becoming ill. Who is responsible for taking off the mom because history shows its moms responsibility to care for the children or is it dad because he works from home several days a week but this particular week has meetings schedule with out of town merchants, another dilemma.

It use to be send them to grandma's she will watch them but even today grandma is working. In today's world we don't have family to depend on because everyone works or the family is living in another part of the city or state there is no one to ask to help.

Quality care has become a very serious issue for the family their employers and the community, an example mom works in a senior care facility and she either calls off or gets the call about her child, she now has to talk to her boss about the situation either way she put the facility and herself in a bad spot. The boss has to reschedule all other staff to accommodate the needs of the facility, she has to remind the mom of the policy and then the mom's coworkers are upset with her. Dad on the other hand is out of town so he cannot help there is money lost; families of the elderly are upset because mom does not get the appropriate care they are paying for, who wins no one.

Childcare has become part of our daily life our children spend more time at the daycare and or school then they do at home so we need to find a way to provide the best possible situation for all.

We need to come together and find a plan that will be in the best interest of the family, community and employers. This is where House Bill 77 can help. It will take the burden off the parents to find that extra income they just lost and has become so vital in their life, employers can be confident of less attendance issues in the work place and reduces the illness in the schools and daycares.

This sick child center will have licensed personnel from physicians to RN, LPN and CNS to care for the children. The staff will be trained on infection control policies, nutritional needs and how to interact with a sick child compared to someone who is not ill in the normal daycare setting.

The facility will be equipped with rooms that will accommodate the needs to fight airborne infection to ensure the prevention of transmission of infectious agents that will ensure the health and wellness of the other children.

As you all can see House Bill 77 has many benefits that will help every family, employer, schools so they don't have to close for a week or so during these illness outbreaks.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony to this very important bill 77 on behalf of the families, employers and communities of Ohio

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