

Wood County Child Support Enforcement Agency

Frank McLaughlin, Director

A department under the Board of County Commissioners
Doris I. Herringshaw, Ed.D. • Craig LaHote • Dr. Theodore H. Bowlus



January 9, 2018

Ohio State Representative Theresa Gavarone
District 3
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Gavarone:

I am writing to thank you, and to encourage your continued sponsorship of HB366, the Child Support Guidelines bill. I know we have previously discussed the critical need for this revision of the Child Support Guidelines. I was pleased to find that you were not only very knowledgeable about the Guidelines, but also were very aware of the need for the update of Ohio's formula.

I have been the Director of the Wood County Child Support Enforcement Agency for nearly 25 years. In that time, there have been no changes to the economic tables that determine the amount of child support non-custodial parents must pay. Ohio is one of only three states in the nation to still use such outdated information. In addition, the income tables for the lower income payors do not provide an adequate self-sufficiency reserve, leaving our agency with the impossible task of trying to collect consistent child support for the neediest children in our community.

Your bill addresses the need for child support guidelines that accurately reflect the cost of raising a child, whether the families be low income, middle income, or high income. HB366 allows for realistic child support orders based on ability to pay; this modernization is desperately needed by both Wood County and Ohio families. HB 366 also provides remedies to significant problems with shared parenting, child care credit, "cash medical" and children's health care coverage, and multiple family orders. The bill also moves the child support tables and worksheet from the ORC to the OAC, to allow for timely updates.

The updates in HB366 work together to provide a comprehensive solution to numerous issues faced by the nearly 15,000 families in Wood County that either receive or must pay child support. I am pleased that you, as our State Representative, recognize this need and are willing to work to improve the situation of so many of the people we serve. I hope you will contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to further discuss this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank McLaughlin', written over a horizontal line.

Frank McLaughlin, Director