



Ohio Chapter

March 14th, 2018

The Honorable Tim Ginter, Chair
Community and Family Advancement Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Dear Chairman Ginter and Members of the House Committee on Community and Family Advancement,

On behalf of the 2,900 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 535, sponsored by State Representative Theresa Gavarone.

Our state is in the midst of a crisis and everyday there seems to be another heartbreaking story of a family torn apart by opiate addiction. Many Ohio children are struggling with addiction and are ending up in a hospital emergency room due to an overdose. We have to pursue every policy at our disposal to combat this epidemic, and we must have effective data as we consider our response.

House Bill 535, the *Opioid Data and Communication Expansion Act*, would require the Ohio Department of Health to compile, aggregate, and publish critical data regarding the number of hospital visits for overdose and the use of naloxone and naltrexone. As advocates for public health, my members know that data is the key to addressing the opiate crisis.

I also appreciate that HB 535 ensures that patient privacy is protected. This is especially important for children struggling with addiction as well as children of parents who are drug addicted.

In closing, I would strongly encourage support for HB 535. Thank you for your consideration and for all of your efforts on behalf of Ohio's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Werve Arnold".

Melissa Werve Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics