

## **Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate Written Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Finance Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of a \$50,000 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund- administered through ODJFS- for a Standards for Excellence Scholarship Program. This will allow 24 non-profits from six sectors of the state to become fully accredited.

As President & CEO of Prevent Blindness, I represent an organization that serves as the voice for Ohio consumers when it comes to eye health and safety. Prevent Blindness is a voluntary, charitable public health organization with offices in 5 locations statewide and over 8,000 donors and volunteers located in every Ohio county that serve nearly 1 million Ohioans of all ages each year.

As a statewide non-profit, we are also a member of the Ohio Association of Non-Profit Organizations (OANO). OANO provides a number of resources and tools for the non-profit sector, including the Standards for Excellence Program which provides a full, thorough review of every aspect of the non-profit organization. This ensures that an organization is not just legally compliant, but adhering to all best practices from human resources, board governance to financial auditing. The Standards seal truly means something at the end of this lengthy and rigorous process.

Prevent Blindness Ohio was the first Ohio non-profit to be fully accredited in the Standards for Excellence Program. Benefits of accreditation are multi-fold. The Standards produce non-profits to be stronger, more viable organizations that can better serve their mission; it also safeguards the State and the many charitable donors in Ohio who can now have a third-party vetting system to check on the operations of a particular non-profit; and these non-profits will be more poised than ever to apply for and receive grants from other funding sources.

I urge your support for a sector that continues to give so much back to our great State and those living in it. This request is an important way to bolster our organizations with the proper tools and resources needed for optimization.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this GRF appropriation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [sherryw@pbohio.org](mailto:sherryw@pbohio.org) or 614-464-2020 should you have questions or require additional information. Thank you for your consideration

---

### **Mission: To Prevent Blindness and Preserve Sight**

Northeast Ohio Chapter • Hillcrest Medical Bldg. #1 • 6803 Mayfield Road, Suite 111 • Cleveland, Ohio 44124 • Phone: 440.720.1285 • Fax: 440.720.1441

Northwest Ohio Chapter • 2200 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 2020 • Toledo, Ohio 43604 • Phone: 419.327.2020 • Fax: 419.327.2494

Southwest Ohio Chapter • 615 Elsinore Place, Annex Bldg., Suite 2020 • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 • Phone: 513.531.9001 • Fax: 513.531.9002

Dayton Office • 313 South Jefferson Street, Suite 104 • Dayton, Ohio 45402 • Phone: 937.223.8766 • Fax: 937.223.8767

Visit [www.pbohio.org](http://www.pbohio.org) or email [info@pbohio.org](mailto:info@pbohio.org)

Please remember Prevent Blindness Ohio in your will.