



**Ohio House of Representatives | Committee on Ways & Means
Testimony in Support: HB 177 Nikki Henry
Columbus, OH | October 10, 2017**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nikki Henry and I am the Director of the Jewish Community Center Early Childhood North West and a Westerville, Ohio resident. I write on behalf of the Jewish Community Center of North West in support of HB 177.

Because Jewish Community Centers are not a fitness club, but a community center, and we should be treated as such. The JCC North West does not have any fitness equipment. We are located in and share space with a synagogue, a house of worship. This is a school for young children, where over 65 families and children attend for childcare and summer camp.

Who we are; what we do

The Jewish Community Center North West was established in 1987 to provide Early Childhood services and care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age in the North West part of Columbus. That mission has not changed. Over 65 children receive care from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. Many of these families have two working parents and need the services the JCC New West provides.

This year the JCC will provide over a quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000) in financial assistance for early childhood, after school care, and summer programs.

For over 50 years the JCC has been serving families with a child with special needs. 50 campers, 4-21 years of age, with special challenges from Autism to Cerebral Palsy to difficult behavioral situations, find the JCC home for the summer for day camp, including children from JCC North West.

Please understand that although it is called the Jewish Community Center North West more than thirty percent (30%) of our membership is not Jewish.

Our JCC North West parents should not be charged tax as we have no gym and our focus is on community service.

The JCC unites the North West Jewish community, and as a nonprofit, takes any revenue we make and reinvests it directly back into providing for our mission work and for services for all.

**There's something
about this place.**

www.columbusjcc.org

JCC Main Campus
1125 College Ave.
Columbus, OH 43209
614.231.2731

JCC New Albany
150 E. Dublin-Granville Rd.
New Albany, OH 43054
614.855.4885

JCC North
6121 Olentangy River Rd.
Worthington, OH 43085
614.764.2414

Jennifer Cammeyer
Board President
Carol Folkerth
Executive Director

Conclusion:

The ability to lower our membership price would make our programs more accessible to working parents.

Therefore, on behalf of our families, I urge you to reverse this tax policy and join 45 other states that do not tax nonprofit centers providing these important services.