



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

November 14, 2017

To: Chairman Schaffer and members of the House Ways and Means Committee  
From: Mike Lieber, CEO, Robert K. Fox Family YMCA  
Re: HB 177

---

On behalf of the Robert K. Fox Family YMCA, and as the current Treasurer of the Ohio Alliance of YMCAs, I want to share two stories from YMCA members whose lives were changes because of the Y. These two people are examples of many who become part of the Y family, and who would have struggled to do so without the YMCA's dedication to being open to all, regardless of their ability to pay. The YMCA is not just a place to improve health. The YMCA is a cause that is dedicated to developing our youngest citizens, helping those in need, and supporting families.

A story from Kimberly: "My son Wesley and I have appreciated the help we have received from the scholarship for the membership and summer day camp fees at the YMCA. I have peace of mind knowing when I bring my child to the Y, he is safe and learning the things that will make him a better person.

Most people come to the Y for the fitness aspects, and we do too, but once there, there is so much more to the place than equipment, the gym, and the pool. There is companionship, guidance, friendliness, and much more at the Y.

Because of the Y, Wesley has matured into a kind, comical, religious, and fantastic young man. The structure, discipline, guidance, and friendship he has gotten from everyone at the Y helped so much. Being a single parent, it was nice to see the impact the Y has made in shaping Wesley. I like the young man he is becoming and it is thanks to the Y."

A story from Aliea: A lot of people can relate to Aliea. She and her husband work hard. Aliea attends college, and they are raising two little boys, Ali and Musa. Like so many parents, Aliea faced the dilemma - how do you afford good child care?

Aliea knows that "completing my degree will help me better provide for my family and having reliable child care is essential to that goal."

The Y was just what her family needed. The YMCA offers child care scholarships for families like Aliea's. Parents can work or continue their educations without sacrificing quality, loving care for their children.

"Since my children have been attending the Y child care center, I have noticed how much they've learned." Ali, 2½, is speaking more clearly, identifying colors, and singing songs. His imagination is taking off too - he is always playing make believe. His younger brother, Musa, 1½, is learning to follow directions and his vocabulary is expanding.

Still, it is not just their academic development that is growing. They have come to love their teachers and are interacting well with children their own ages. Mom is pleased to say, "Both of them have learned about caring for others and sharing. They love playing with the teachers and other children."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**OHIO ALLIANCE OF YMCAs**

40 West Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

P 614 384 2300 F 614 384 2301 [www.ohioymcas.org](http://www.ohioymcas.org)