



## Ohio Chapter

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Dave Burke, Chair  
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee  
Ohio Senate  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Burke and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services,  
and Medicaid Committee,

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

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