

Representative Sedrick Denson
33rd Ohio House District
House Health Committee
HB 11 Proponent Testimony- May 28th 2019

Chairman Merrin, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of House Health Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on HB 11. Because I don't want to take up too much of your time, I will keep my testimony extremely brief.

As a advocate of Cradle Cincinnati, I'm so appreciative to Reps. Howse and Manning for introducing this bill, and to the committee for taking it up. This is an organization I believe in

This bill tells Ohioans that the state is serious about the most vulnerable of our population. It shows its leaders are committed to doing something about our infant mortality epidemic. As we all know, care for our children takes place before they're even born. Many mothers, however, don't know or do not have the means to properly care for themselves and thus their babies while they're in the womb. HB 11 aims at helping these mothers in areas that need it most.

While there's many things HB 11 does, in my opinion, the biggest takeaway is that group pre-natal care improves birth outcomes, reduces disparities, and saves the state enormous amount of money by handling these issues on the front end.

As I'm sure others will testify to as well, expanding group prenatal care will not only promote equity in the prenatal sphere, but also lower Ohio's infant obscenely high infant mortality rate. I have seen this programs like this work wonders in Hamilton County already, and I'm excited to see what it can do for the rest of the state.

Thank you, and I welcome any questions you may have for me.