



Ohio Chapter

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Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

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Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and Members of the House Health committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 11, sponsored by State Representatives Stephanie Howse and Gayle Manning.

Ohio's infant mortality crisis has been well documented and several steps have been taken over the past few years to address our high infant mortality rates. As a result of recent legislative activities and increased local outreach, Ohio's infant mortality rate fell slightly in 2017. Unfortunately, we still have a significant amount of work to do, especially among Ohio's African American community where the infant mortality rate is three times as high as the statewide rate.

As you know, HB 11 would make a number of positive changes aimed at reducing infant mortality and improving the health of Ohio mothers and their children. These policies include requiring the Medicaid program to cover tobacco cessation and dental hygiene, establishing a new grant program at the Ohio Department of Health for group-based prenatal care, and creating a new education campaign focused on lead-based paint under the *Help Me Grow* program.

HB 11 represents a positive step forward and contains several evidence-based changes that will address maternal and infant health. I hope the committee will favorably report this measure as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics