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Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 210
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House Health Committee

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 210, which will establish safeguards to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in child daycare and preschool facilities.

Tuberculosis (Tb) is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide, with 10 million cases in 2017. In the United States, there were 9,105 cases of Tb in 2017 and the number of attributable deaths rose from 470 in 2015 to 528 in 2016, according to the CDC. In Ohio, there were 178 cases of Tb in 2018, which represents an increase of 19.5% from 2017. Most of the cases in Ohio were among foreign-born citizens and occurred in the larger, urban counties. A typical Tb case requires 180 days of medications, x-rays, lab tests, follow-up and testing of contacts. Annualized costs to treat each case can conservatively range from \$20,000 to \$195,000 depending on the type of Tb.

Last year, in Hamilton County, there was a potential outbreak of Tb among young children due to a daycare worker with a highly infectious case of Tb. Consequently, all of the children in the daycare center needed to be tested for Tb, and if positive, receive treatment from a pediatrician. The local cost for this Tb exposure investigation exceeded \$40,000. This issue was brought to my attention by Representative Seitz, who worked closely with the Hamilton County Health Commissioner to find a solution that will help prevent incidents such as these.

House Bill 210 would require testing of potential daycare and preschool workers for Tb prior to their employment, if a person formerly resided in a country identified by the World Health Organization as having a high burden of tuberculosis, and that person arrived in the United States within five years immediately preceding the date they applied for employment.

The cost of a Tb skin test averages less than \$40. If a potential daycare or preschool worker is found negative for Tb, they may be employed, but will be required to undergo a Tb test each year thereafter for a period of five years. If found positive for Tb, that person must undergo additional testing and a treatment regimen as prescribed by a licensed health professional. Until the person

submits evidence that he or she has completed the entire treatment regimen and is free of the disease, the childcare facility may not employ the person, or, if already employed, may not allow the person to be physically present at the facility. All Tb results will be reported to the local health department.

This legislation would also require Ohio Job and Family Services to work with the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments by releasing public recipient information when a declared Tb investigation has been determined. This provision will ensure that local health departments have timely access to accurate information needed to carry out an exposure investigation and prevent the disease from spreading.

In summary, House Bill 210 is a preventative piece of legislation which will ensure that employees of child daycare and preschool facilities are free of this dangerous disease before they are employed. By passing this legislation, we have the opportunity to help keep Ohio's children safe and healthy, and avoid dangerous situations like the one in Hamilton County last year.

Thank you again Chairman for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 210. I would be happy to answer any questions that members of the Committee may have.