

---

# Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

---

## **Ohio House of Representatives Insurance Committee Prevention Action Alliance December 10, 2019**

Good morning, Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chairman Antani, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the House Insurance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written only testimony as a proponent in consideration of House Bill 390 (“HB 390”). My name is Marcie Seidel, and I am the Executive Director of Prevention Action Alliance (PAA). PAA is a nonprofit, certified prevention agency based in Columbus, Ohio that has been in existence for 32 years. We are dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. PAA offers a wealth of resources, training services, grants, and advocacy opportunities for those who are active in the prevention and mental health fields.

Given our commitment to creating and supporting healthy communities, we are in support of HB 390. We understand the massive role that health insurance coverage plays in the overall health and mental wellbeing of a household and understand the pain that a family goes through when a loved one is denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition.

We are in support of all four of the main components in this bill, especially the portion that requires policies to cover what the Affordable Care Act (ACA) describes as “essential health benefits”. We also support the expanded definition of mental health services and addiction treatment to include the coverage of preventative health services as an “essential health benefit”. Many of the issues we are currently dealing with as a state revolve around a lack of access to care, so failing to ensure that this measure is protected would be a massive step backward for behavioral health.

We are happy to see this push to codify the ACA’s patient protections into state law and thank Representative Crossman and Representative Clites for leading the charge.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written-only testimony as a proponent. Prevention Action Alliance would welcome communication with the chair’s office should any questions arise.