



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

To: Chairman Romanchuk and members of the House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee

From: Beth Tsvetkoff, Executive Director
Ohio Alliance of YMCAs

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The Ohio Alliance of YMCAs is a nonprofit organization that represents the 162 YMCAs throughout the state. We are a grassroots driven and governed organization that advocates and educates on behalf of the YMCAs and their mission.

YMCAs are the largest, single provider of early childhood education and school age care, both in Ohio and the country. Teaching and caring for our youngest citizens is a central priority of the YMCAs' commitment to youth development.

Ohio YMCAs are supportive of, and grateful for, the funding and policy changes included in the Governor's introduced budget bill.

First, the investment of additional federal dollars in early childhood education and school age care will help stabilize the foundation of the child care system, allowing early childhood and school age providers to move into higher quality ratings. That movement will ensure Ohio can meet the 2020 goal of getting all Ohio providers serving low-income children to be star-rated. Because these dollars are not derived from the state, this additional investment does not take Ohio dollars from other critical health and human service programs.

Second, the bill contains several policy changes that will allow school age providers to better serve children in the summer months, and during school breaks. One of those changes will allow summer day camp providers, like the YMCAs, to focus more on the children they are serving and less on unnecessary administrative barriers. YMCAs' summer day camp programs help protect students against summer learning loss, as well as ensuring healthy, outdoor activities for those students during the day.

Another of those policy changes will remove the Step Up to Quality requirements for programs offered during school holidays, such as winter and spring break, and snow days. This change is necessary because these types of programs could never meaningfully participate in Ohio's quality-rating system as they only serve children one to ten days per year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.