

WRITTEN TESTIMONY (PROPONENT) OF AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 166
OHIO COUNCIL OF YWCAs
BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINANCE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN MARK J. ROMANCHUK
H.B.166
APRIL 11, 2019

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, I am Kimberly Laudick, Executive Director along with Kelly Houg, Advocacy Coordinator of the YWCA of Van Wert County and a member of the Ohio Council of YWCAs' advocacy committee. I am here to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 166, and specifically to request support for an amendment that requests funding to support programming in YWCA chapters.

Today, I would like to begin by briefly summarizing for you who we serve throughout the State, second tell you about some of our most important programs in need of state funding, and third, request that you support the Council's request for funding with our proposed amendment to H.B.166. Afterwards, I can answer any questions you may have.

Collectively, the Council is made up of 14 YWCAs across the state. We provide direct services to women and children victimized by gender-based violence, including emergency shelter, crisis hotline support and non-residential services. We provide wraparound services that address gender-based violence, including trauma-informed support for survivors such as counseling, case management, substance abuse services and prevention education in the community. Finally, we provide a variety of educational opportunities for youth as part of wraparound services.

Our member organizations reached more than 90,000 women, girls and family members last year through our programming. Our current sources of funding – Federal or private – are insufficient to meet ongoing needs of the communities and vulnerable populations we serve.

Collectively, we are requesting \$1.4 million in TANF funds from the State budget to support the programs I described. We are pleased that the Governor's proposed budget requests substantial resources be devoted to areas in social services to protect the most vulnerable Ohioans in H.B.166. We believe our funding request is consistent with that priority.

Chairman Romanchuk, we urge the sub-committee and full House Committee to favorably consider our request. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.