



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**Proponent Testimony on HB206**  
**October 29, 2019**  
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Chair Merrin, Vice-Chair Lare, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee. The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) is pleased to support HB206. PCSAO is a membership driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.

PCSAO appreciates Rep. Stolzfus' and Rep. Boyd's focus on ensuring every child has a safe, loving permanent family and for their leadership in bringing this bill forward. In SFY2018, 1,542 Ohio children were adopted from the public children services system; over 2800 children were in the permanent custody of a children services agency and waiting to be adopted. That is just children involved with the public system—many more are adopted through private agencies.

HB206 recognizes that adoptions can create financial challenges for some families and seeks to address that by changing the state personal income tax credit for adoption from non-refundable to refundable and increasing the minimum credit from \$1,500 to \$5,000. We believe that efforts to reduce barriers to adoption are of value and therefore support HB206.

Thank you.