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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you to the Ohio State Senate for helping spread awareness about Hirschprung's Disease. As a primary care provider, I have seen first hand how important it is to have true understanding about this condition. Hirschprung's Disease affects 1 In 5,000 live births. As such, it is likely that every primary care provider (from pediatrics to adult medicine) and emergency personnel will encounter someone with this condition during their career. This disease results in the failure of normal nerve cells to develop in parts of the bowel during fetal development. As a result, the affected individual will not be able to pass stool normally. Untreated, this condition can result in stool backing up leading to bowel obstruction, overgrowth of bacteria, potential bowel perforation, and blood stream infections. Early diagnosis and surgical intervention can result in normal, healthy bowel habits, although care with a gastroenterologist and surgeon is likely necessary throughout life.

As a pediatrician, I know how important it is for a child to feel supported in all facets of his or her life. As such, ensuring that the child's teachers and school staff know about any chronic condition is so important for a child to feel comfortable. Increasing awareness of Hirschprung's Disease will help children with this disease feel comfortable and supported in the school setting.

I support the DiVincenzo family in their pursuit to create awareness of this disease. I thank the Ohio State Senate for supporting SB173.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Bar-Lev'.

Lauren C. Bar-Lev, MD