



Proponent Testimony

HB 412

Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

Beth Bickford, Executive Director, aohc_1@aohc.net, 614-832-0336

Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, June 3, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) is pleased to offer its support for House Bill 412, sponsored by Representatives Clites and Ginter. AOHC is the statewide nonprofit organization that represents the health commissioners of Ohio's city, county and combined health districts.

HB 412 would create the Rare Disease Advisory Council and spell out specific charges of this council, with instructions to report findings to the legislature. The findings of this report will provide critical data surrounding rare diseases in Ohio, and, we believe, lead to the creation of substantive policy goals targeted toward those who are afflicted by these diseases.

Local boards of health staff administer and implement Ohio's Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program. Through this program, public health nurses coordinate care for Ohio's most medically fragile children. They make sure appointments are made and kept, medications are properly administered, and medical professionals are working together to treat the rare diseases that afflict these children. As a result, the members of AOHC have strong experiences that can inform the work on this council. Just to give you a sense of the scope of this program, the Franklin County Health Department alone serves over 4,000 families.

AOHC has worked closely with Representatives Clites and Ginter on this bill and would urge this committee act favorably on amended House Bill 412.