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# Prevention Action Alliance

Lifetime Prevention | Lifetime Wellness

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## **Ohio Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee Prevention Action Alliance February 12, 2020**

Good morning, Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hottinger, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent in consideration of Senate Bill 254 (“SB 254”). My name is Marcie Seidel, and I am the Executive Director of Prevention Action Alliance (PAA). PAA is a 32-year-old statewide nonprofit based in Columbus, Ohio. We are dedicated to leading healthy communities in the prevention of substance misuse and the promotion of mental health wellness. PAA offers a wealth of resources, training services, grants, and advocacy opportunities for those who are active in the prevention and mental health fields.

Given our commitment to creating and supporting healthy communities, we at PAA understand the massive role that health insurance coverage plays in behavioral health, and how an insurer’s decision to not adhere to mental health and addiction parity causes an immeasurable level of hardship on individuals who are already struggling.

Prevention Action Alliance supports SB 254 and its effort to align Ohio law with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) as this is a commonsense effort that is consistent with the state’s publicly expressed interest in helping Ohioans who are suffering from mental health and addiction issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written-only testimony as a proponent. Prevention Action Alliance would welcome communication with the chair’s office should any questions arise.