

House Committee on Community and Family Advancement
October 18, 2017
Proponent Testimony of Susan A. Brown, Esq.
Director, Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency
SB 70

Good afternoon Chairman Ginter, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee. My name is Susan Brown, and I am the Director of the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), where I oversee 268 employees who manage a caseload of 70,000 and collections of \$168 million dollars per year in child support payments. I have been in the child support program since 1997, and I have been the Director of four county CSEAs over the span of my career: Lawrence, Athens, Delaware, and Franklin. I am a Commissioner on the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood and I am a Past President of the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA). I currently chair the statewide OCDA Child Support Works Committee, a group committed to improve parent workforce services within the child support program. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to present proponent testimony on Senate Bill 70.

In a Metro County such as Franklin, we rely heavily on our strong administrative processes to provide efficient, cost-free services to families. Getting a hearing scheduled through the Court process can be much more time consuming and complicated than through the administrative process. We have six administrative hearing officers that hold approximately 2,864 administrative hearings a year, and our Agency typically issues upwards of 9,154 administrative orders in a given year for establishment of paternity and support, modification of support, and termination of support.

In my time in the program, however, I have seen the inconsistencies that exist county to county, and each county I have overseen has done things differently. Some of this is to be expected, given the judicial component of our program, but other discrepancies have been caused by loopholes in our statutes, such as our inability to establish an administrative order for a mother to pay child support, and other inconsistencies, such as the varying effective dates of administrative child support orders and the ability to begin the termination process prior to the event occurring, instead of after.

SB 70 will make timely and necessary changes to fine-tune our administrative processes, standardize appeal timeframes, and improve consistency statewide. These "technical tweaks" will also improve our efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to families.

SB 70 was passed unanimously in the Senate in June, and I ask for your support in passing it out of committee and on to the House floor for passage before the end of this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions

