

**House Committee on Community and Family Advancement  
December 5, 2017**

**Proponent Testimony of Joe Fantozzi, Chief Assistant Prosecutor  
Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency**

**HB366 (Child Support Guidelines)**

Good afternoon Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair LaTourette, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee. My name is Joe Fantozzi and I am the Chief Assistant Prosecutor for the Summit County Child Support Enforcement Agency. Thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony on House Bill 366.

The bill seeks to update Child Support Guidelines, which is desperately needed. Initially, the economic tables used in the child support calculation needs to be updated to ensure that child support obligations are timely and reflect our modern economy. Ohio has not updated its economic tables since 1992, which used data from the early to mid-1980's.

Additionally, the guidelines update will allow us to set realistic support orders that are based on actual earnings, resulting in orders which reflect an individual's ability to pay. Under our existing support tables my experience has been that obligors in the low income range simply cannot afford to pay the amounts currently ordered. The update also includes a self-sufficiency reserve which is a graduated adjustment to the table amounts for low-income obligors.

The goal for us is to encourage consistent, reliable payments by obligors to the children who need the support. Our economic tables need to change and grow just as the children they aim to help.

Thank you for your time and consideration.