



Collaborating to
Ensure a Healthy Ohio

November 16, 2016

The Honorable Robert Sprague
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Substitute Senate Bill 332

Dear Chairman Sprague, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services:

I write you today on behalf of the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) to express support for the as passed by the Senate version of Substitute Senate Bill 332.

Established in 1915, OHA is the nation's first state-level hospital association. OHA exists to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio. OHA currently represents 220 hospitals and 13 health systems throughout Ohio. The association is governed by a 20-member Board of Trustees with representation from small and large hospitals, teaching facilities and health care systems.

As you are aware, the reduction of Ohio's dismal infant mortality rate has been and remains a priority for the association. OHA's Institute for Health Innovation, under a directive of the OHA Board of Trustees and the Board's Clinical Advisory Committee, developed a multi-faceted set of initiatives to impact change at the hospital level, and support efforts of member hospitals working in their local communities to improve Ohio's infant mortality rate. Launched in April 2014, OHA's Good4Baby initiative includes key focus areas: safe sleep, early elective deliveries, breastfeeding, safe spacing, progesterone, access to care, disparities, tobacco cessation and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Since the launch of the Good4Baby hospital based initiatives in 2014, OHA has worked with all of Ohio's maternity hospitals, the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality, Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative and Ohio Department of Health to provide resources to communities to further reduce infant mortality in Ohio.

According to a recent OHA analysis of newly released Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data, Ohio has made improvements in all areas of infant mortality since 2011. However, we recognize there is still much work to be done. To this end, we commend Senators Jones and Tavares for their tireless work on this critical issue.

Overall, we believe the recommendations set forth by the Ohio Commission on Infant Mortality, on which OHA was proud to serve, and included in Substitute SB 332 will provide the needed framework and next steps in our shared goal to reduce infant mortality rates and ensure more Ohio babies see their first birthday.

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Chairman Sprague, we thank you for the opportunity to provide continued support for Substitute Senate Bill 332. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Borgemenke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Borgemenke
Senior Vice President, Advocacy

Cc: The Honorable Ryan Smith, Chairman, House Finance Committee