



John R. Kasich Governor of Ohio | Douglas A. Garver Executive Director

57 East Main Street | Columbus OH 43215

November 16, 2016

Chairman Robert Sprague
House Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Substitute Senate Bill 332

Chairman Sprague:

I am writing today in support of a proposed amendment to Substitute Senate Bill 332 that would delete Section 175.14 of the bill in its entirety.

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) applauds the efforts of the Commission on Infant Mortality and the sponsors of Sub. S.B. 332 and fully supports the goals of this important legislation. The deletion of Section 175.14 was first cleared with the sponsors, Senator Shannon Jones and Senator Charleta Tavares, during Senate consideration of the bill but the section was inadvertently left in the substitute bill. Alternative language was also proposed and is included in Section 175.15 of Sub. S.B. 332.

OHFA's concerns with Sec. 175.14 arise from the references to emergency shelters that the agency does not fund and the requirement to prioritize pregnancy in our housing assistance programs. OHFA funds the development and construction of rental communities that are available to all individuals who can meet the income and age requirements of the development. The agency does not offer any rental payment assistance, like Section 8 vouchers administered by public housing authorities, which could be prioritized.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Guy Ford, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 614-995-1092 or gford@ohiohome.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Doug Garver'.

Douglas A. Garver
Executive Director

CC: Ranking Member Emilia Sykes