

Ohio Section  
Amy Burkett, MD  
Chair  
66 East Lynn Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 621-2000



November 16, 2016

The Honorable Robert Sprague  
Chairman, Ohio House Finance, Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the, Ohio Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), which represents the over 1600 obstetricians and gynecologists who practice in Ohio and the women they serve, I am writing to convey our support for Senate Bill 332, aimed at reducing Ohio's abysmal Infant Mortality Rate.

As you know, Ohio's Infant Mortality rate is abysmal, sitting at 45<sup>th</sup>; we are only ranked better than West Virginia, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. And, when breaking down those numbers further, we are nearly dead last when it comes to black infant mortality. We can, and must, do better!

SB332 was introduced by Senators Shannon Jones and Charleta Tavares. The Senators drafted the bill based on recommendations and evidence-based best practices heard during hearings of the Infant Mortality Commission. SB332 provides more tools in the toolbox to achieve more 1<sup>st</sup> Birthdays for Ohio babies and their families.

We must act now. The recent numbers show that each and every year more babies are dying in Ohio; we must stop talking and start acting so more babies reach their first birthday. Please give Senate Bill 332 your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "Amy Burkett MD" in a cursive script.

Amy Burkett, MD  
Chair, Ohio Section

cc: Members of Ohio House Finance, Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
Members of Ohio House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Shannon Jones, Ohio Senate  
The Honorable Charleta Tavares, Ohio Senate  
Lisa Griffin, Sr. Policy Advisor, Ohio House of Representatives