

Michael A. Renne, Esq.
Partner
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
191 W. Nationwide Blvd.
Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-1435
mrenne@dinsmore.com

**Testimony of Michael Renne
In support of HB 595
Before the House Civil Justice Committee
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My name is Michael Renne. I am an attorney and 1987 graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. I clerked for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Herbert Brown following law school. Since 1989 I have been working in the private sector as a member of various large firms in Ohio. I am currently a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP.

My practice focuses almost exclusively on guardianships, trusts, probate, and estate planning. I have extensive experience with guardianships, wrongful death trusts, and other trusts for minors and disabled people. I have appeared on such matters in more than 60 of Ohio's 88 County Probate Courts.

I support proposed R.C. 2111.182 (which starts on page 27/line 771 of House Bill 595, the "Probate Omnibus" bill) because it will provide a tremendous benefit for the young people of Ohio who to receive funds as a minor.

Current law requires money received by a minor through inheritance or personal injury to be held in a guardianship until age 18. At age 18 the guardianship automatically terminates and the newly minted adult gains immediate access to his or her funds. This frequently proves to be a disaster. Many 18 year olds have little concept of the value of money. When they receive these funds --- funds which were the result of years of hard work by their parents or other relatives, or funds which were meant to last them a lifetime from a personal injury settlement ---- the funds are often spent or squandered within a short period of time.

This story is repeated over and over in Ohio. It is one I have witnessed many times. My colleagues who practice in this area would all give similar testimony.

The seven year difference between age 18 and age 25 is very significant. A 25 year old has a much greater appreciation of the significance and value of money than an 18 year old.

Pursuant to proposed R.C. 2111.182, the probate court would have the discretion to establish a trust for a minor which would hold funds for the minor's benefit until age 25. These trusts will preserve the funds for the items and services a young adult needs at this stage of life, including college expenses, transportation expenses, healthcare, and housing. These trusts will dramatically decrease the regret that comes to a young person who unwisely squanders funds at a young age without realizing the value of what they possess.

In Ohio, we have real life experience with the value of age 25 trusts. Pursuant to R.C. 2125.03(A)(2), Ohio has for decades permitted probate courts to create an age 25 trust to hold proceeds for a minor from a wrongful death action. This statute is frequently used to protect minors, almost as a matter of course. I do not believe you will find one probate judge in Ohio, or one person who practices in this area, who is not grateful for the opportunity to place wrongful death proceeds in a trust for a minor, to be administered until age 25. These trusts provide tremendous benefit for Ohio's young adults.

Because age 25 trusts have been administered successfully in Ohio for decades pursuant to the wrongful death statute, the addition of proposed 2111.182 will be efficiently and easily administered by local probate courts. These courts are all familiar with the use and benefits of age 25 trusts in the wrongful death context, and these courts all understand the benefits of the age 25 trust. They will be regularly and successfully utilized, to great benefit.

I strongly recommend the passage of proposed R.C. 2111.182.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Renne