



**MIKE DEWINE**

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The Honorable Tim Ginter  
Chairman, House Community and Family Advancement Committee  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Ginter,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 515, legislation to prohibit the underground practice of transferring custody of adopted children, commonly referred to as "re-homing."

"Re-homing" can occur when families transfer children, often those with special needs or adopted from foreign countries, outside of proper judicial channels when parenting them becomes too challenging. These kids are often advertised on the internet and too frequently are placed in deplorable conditions with dangerous adults. Unfortunately, Ohio is not immune to this practice, and authorities are discovering children in these potentially unsafe situations at an alarming rate.

My office worked with Representative Pelanda to enhance House Bill 515 with provisions that ensure prospective adoptive parents receive information about any challenges a child may face. These provisions are currently being promoted by the National Association of Attorneys General. Ending "re-homing" in Ohio is the ultimate goal, and this disclosure process will hopefully decrease disruptions that can lead to "re-homing."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my full support of House Bill 515 and for all this committee does to protect our youth.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine  
Ohio Attorney General