

My name is Sherry Detrick, I am a registered nurse, I work at Kent State University Ashtabula as the Nursing Program Coordinator for the Ashtabula Nursing Program. I am also the Board President of Ashtabula Community Action which includes Ashtabula Head Start. My area of expertise includes: nursing, healthcare and higher education. I also take great interest and pride in volunteering for my community. I am serving as a volunteer for Remote Access Medical (RAM) and I am on the leadership team bringing RAM to Ashtabula County.

I am a strong supporter of House Bill 541. As a registered nurse and a board member of an organization like community action and Head Start, I see first hand the need for medical, vision and dental health care screenings, assessments and treatments that are essential for this already at risk population of children. Many of our Head Start children in Ashtabula county rely on a mobile dentist that comes one time a year to provide dental assessments only without any form of treatment. Many of these children need treatment because there is a problem. The lack of dental providers that accept state insurance in Ashtabula county that are able to offer necessary treatment is very limited. This requires families to travel and puts an unfair burden on these families to travel to other parts of the state for treatment. This is costly and extremely time consuming and can result in a much greater health care risk for children in this population if not taken care of which unfortunately sometimes times happens.

Ashtabula County and I am sure many other counties in Ohio have populations of uninsured and underinsured citizens that cannot reach the healthcare they need. Many citizens similar to the children in Ashtabula Head Start may have insurance for dental. Unfortunately, because of the lack of providers, specifically the lack of providers that accept state insurance in our county is extremely limited. Charitable organizations like RAM really help to fill the gap.

Allowing licensed healthcare professionals in dental, medical and vision from other states come into our state to help our citizens is a beautiful and wonderful thing.