



Office of Representative John E. Barnes, Jr.

Thank you, Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and my esteemed colleagues in the Health Committee for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 677, which will require a mental health trauma center to be established through a demonstration program as part of a county hospital in Cuyahoga County.

The bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to establish and operate a demonstration program under which a mental health trauma center is established. The center is to be part of a county hospital located in Cuyahoga County. The bill specifies that the demonstration program is to be ongoing. HB 677 will:

1. help reduce crime by improving access to mental health services, especially short-term services for individuals experiencing a momentary lapse of reason; and
2. serve as a model for establishing additional mental health trauma centers throughout Ohio.

The bill authorizes the Department to ask for assistance with establishing the mental health trauma center. The assistance may be requested from a Cuyahoga County teaching hospital affiliated with a private university, a Cuyahoga County teaching hospital owned or operated by a nonprofit foundation, or both types of hospitals.

The mental health trauma center that is established must:

1. provide mental health services using both proven and untested therapies;
2. conduct research on best practices regarding mental health services; and
3. help individuals access social services and public assistance available to them, including Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

The center is permitted to seek assistance from a probate court regarding an individual the court has found to be a mentally ill person subject to court order, which refers to the standards and

process used for determining that court-ordered treatment is needed. The center also is permitted to use drug treatment programs as a model for other providers of mental health services.

Thank you again for this opportunity, I would be happy to answer any questions.