



**County
Commissioners
Association of Ohio**

Serving Ohio Counties Since 1880

Suzanne K. Dulaney, Esq., Executive Director

209 East State Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309

Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986

Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

May 17, 2017

To: Members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid
From: Steve Stolte - Union County Commissioner
Re: Substitute House Bill 49 - State Biennial Budget

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Tavares and members of the Health and Medicaid Subcommittee, my name is Steve Stolte and I am a County Commissioner in Union County. Thank you for allowing me to testify on House Bill 49.

I am here to today on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, regarding provisions in HB 49 that will have an important impact on the fiscal stability of counties across Ohio.

First I'd like to discuss a county system that is under considerable strain due to the opiate epidemic. The incarceration of mentally ill and addicted individuals in county jails has spiked in recent years, placing an incredible burden of risk and cost upon such facilities. This population is at high risk for injuring themselves and others, and jail employees are not trained to manage individuals who are in the midst of this kind of crisis.

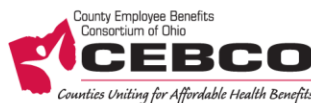
CCAO has identified three strategies to improve our response to the growing pressures on the jail system and two of them were included in the House passed version of HB 49.

1. Statewide mental health and addiction stabilization centers – These centers are places other than jails that law enforcement can take individuals in crisis to more appropriately address their needs. This proposal is currently funded in the budget bill by providing \$15 million per year to fund 6 regional mental health and 9 addiction crisis centers.
2. Treatment for jail inmates – Improving continuity of care by having behavioral health providers in the jails to assess, treat and transition inmates, which would help them remain on the road to recovery once they're released and lead to less recidivism. This is currently funded in the budget at \$12 million per year for ADAMHS boards.
3. Psychotropic drugs – CCAO asks that the Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Central Pharmacy provide psychotropic drugs prescribed for county jail inmates estimated to be \$4 million per year. This would help relieve some of the costs that are putting pressure on the jails. This is NOT currently funded in the bill, but we would support this addition.



County Risk
Sharing Authority

Fax: 614-220-0209
www.corsa.org



Fax: 614-229-4588
www.cebco.org



County Commissioners
Association of Ohio
Service Corporation

Fax: 614-221-6986
www.ccao.org

The other issue I'd like to briefly touch on is the elimination of the Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) sales tax. House bill 49 currently proposes a plan to address the loss of the Medicaid MCO sales tax revenue to the state, counties and transit authorities. However, this plan allows the state to fully replace its sales tax loss, while only providing counties a one-time allocation that ranges from approximately three months to a year or more of the foregone revenue.

Conversations with House leadership indicate a strong commitment to address this issue before the budget bill is complete, and we ask the Senate to continue efforts to craft a solution that will hold counties harmless from these serious reductions in revenue.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony, I would be happy to answer any questions you have.