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The Honorable Joe Uecker
Chairman, Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
1 Capitol Square, Statehouse Room 226
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Uecker,

Protecting Ohio's families and children is the mission that drives everything we do in the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Each and every day, my office works with law enforcement, schools, parents, and other partners to investigate, educate, and collaborate in efforts to keep children safe. And so, I am very pleased for the opportunity to provide a letter in support of Senate Bill 86, which is Senator Hackett's bill to designate May 25th as "Ohio National Missing Children's Day."

Currently, there are over 600 children listed on the Attorney General's Missing Children online database, which is overseen by the Missing Persons Unit within my office's Bureau of Criminal Investigation. In 2016, over 19,000 children were reported missing in Ohio, and while the vast majority of those children were recovered safely, those that have not been found deserve our attention. We should strive to do whatever we can to help find them and bring them back to their families.

Starting in 1983, the Nation has marked National Missing Children's Day each May 25th. Recognition of an Ohio Missing Children's Day to coincide with the national event would help send a message to Ohio's citizens about the importance of this issue and the work that goes on every day around the state to help find missing children. I strongly encourage the General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 86, as all of us have a role to play in making sure missing kids return home safely.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General