

**Robert A. Shapiro, MD**  
Division Director

May 26, 2020

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**Jodie A. Short, MHSA**  
Program Manager

The Ohio House of Representatives  
**House Criminal Justice Committee**  
Representative George Lang, Chair

Re: Statement of Support for HOUSE BILL 558

Chairman Lang, Vice Chairman Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and  
Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 558, which would require public  
children services agencies to report child abuse or neglect in military families  
to the appropriate military authorities.

I am a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati and Director of  
the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children's  
Hospital. The Mayerson Center evaluates and reports nearly 2,000 suspected  
incidents of child abuse in Southwest Ohio every year.

The best practice in child abuse evaluations requires a multi-disciplinary  
investigation of social service agencies, law enforcement and medical  
experts. If suspected child abuse involves a military family, the military  
authorities should be informed and included in the investigation. Therefore,  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital supports House Bill 558 to best protect military  
families.

Sincerely,



Robert Allan Shapiro, MD, FAAP  
Director, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine



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MEMBER