Sponsor Testimony

House Bill 344

Transportation and Public safety Committee

October 22, 2019

Good Morning,

Chair Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for allowing Rep. Patton and I the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 344 (H.B. 344). House Bill 344 would create a Cleveland Clinic Children’s license plate that will increase awareness, advocacy efforts, and funds contributing to a wide range of patient, education, and research services.

Cleveland Clinic Children’s is a nonprofit, multispecialty academic medical center with a proud history of serving the needs of our community and nation. In 2018, the caregivers at Cleveland Clinic Children’s saw more than 855,000 outpatient visits, 110,000 emergency department visits, 13,000 admissions, and 10,000 surgeries. With more than 40 community locations across Northeast Ohio and nearly 400 pediatric beds, Cleveland Clinic Children’s is nationally ranked as a leader in pediatric care by the 2019-2020 U.S. News & World Report “Best Children’s Hospitals” survey.

Those numbers are real and clearly display the direct impact Cleveland Clinic Children’s has on protecting our children’s health. There is a need to help create awareness and take action for health improvements in support of the great work, Cleveland Clinic Children’s is already doing throughout the world. The $25.00 required contribution fee and $10.00 additional administrative BMV fee for the license plate will help provide benefits to the following areas: accessible healthcare, funding evidence-based medical research that leads to advanced treatments and cures, educating the next generation of healthcare professionals and supporting community health initiatives.

HB 344 is critical legislation to keep our promise to Ohio families and to renew the promise of better lives, brighter futures, healthier children, and families across our state.

Thank you, Chairman Green, and the Transportation and Public Safety Committee for your attention to this matter.