



Five Rivers Health Centers

Administration

2261 Philadelphia Dr., Ste. 200
Dayton, OH 45406-1814
(937) 734-6846

Center for Women's Health

161 Wyoming St.
Dayton, OH 45409-2722
(937) 208-2007

Dental Center

30 E Apple St., Ste L204
Dayton, OH 45409-2939
(937) 208-2704

Family Health Center

2261 Philadelphia Dr.
Dayton, OH 45406-1814
(937) 734-4141

Greene County Health Center

360 Wilson Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385-1810
(937) 708-3400

Medical Surgical Health Center

725 S Ludlow St.
Dayton, OH 45402-2610
(937) 208-2004

Pediatrics

161 Wyoming St.
Dayton, OH 45409-2722
(937) 208-2781

Samaritan Health Center

921 S Edwin C Moses Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45417-3464
(937) 461-1376

Star Pediatrics

1659 W. Second Street
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 376-5473

May 13, 2019

Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid
Testimony on Substitute House Bill 166 – May 14, 2019
Gina McFarlane-EI, CEO of Five Rivers Health Centers

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Thomas, and Members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid, thank you for the opportunity for Five Rivers Health Centers to provide written testimony on Substitute House Bill 166.

At a time when Ohio faces a severe shortage of primary care physicians and providers, the Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI) has been an advantageous tool for our health center. I've seen firsthand how this successful program has supported our efforts to recruit and retain the next generation of primary care providers at Five Rivers Health Centers.

Five Rivers Health Centers, located in Dayton/Montgomery and Greene Counties, is the 10th largest Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Ohio, serving more than 25,000 patients with over 90,000 visits annually. All of our nine locations provide integrated services, including medical, dental OB/GYN, behavioral health, substance abuse, pharmacy, medical legal partnership, acupuncture and five specialties.

We are only able to provide such a comprehensive array of services if we have a strong, sustainable workforce. The Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI), housed at the Ohio Department of Health (ALI440-465) has been a godsend for our community. As the largest FQHC site in the nation with medical residents (more than 202 residents complete their ambulatory rotations at our locations), our site has been one of the leaders and supporters of the OPCWI program, hosting more than 100 medical students from Wright State University annually. By seeing the depth of the services that we provide to our patients, medical students chose to apply to our local residency program. Through this program, we anticipate hiring our first family medicine physician who happened to be an OPCWI graduate and two dentists that are graduates of the OPCWI.

On behalf of the patients and communities that Five Rivers Health Centers serves, I respectfully request full restoration of the state's investment of the OPCWI program in the state biennial budget, House Bill 166. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to know more about how the OPCWI program at our health center or if you would like to learn more about the innovative care we provide.

Sincerely,

Gina McFarlane-EI, CEO
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