



Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid
Testimony on HB 287
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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid; thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about House Bill 287 on behalf of the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. This bill seeks to address a gap in the provision of certain Medicaid services for the family members of active duty military personnel who have relocated to Ohio from other states.

The array and extent of services provided under Medicaid waiver programs can vary significantly from one state to another. This allows states the flexibility to tailor services to local needs, but it also limits the transferability of these waivers between states. As you heard from Representatives Russo and Perales in their sponsor testimony, this arrangement complicates service delivery for military family members who rely on the services they were receiving in their state of origin.

OACB initially had several concerns with implementation of the bill due to the unique nature of Ohio's county-based system for serving people with developmental disabilities and the recently updated structure of the waiver waiting list. However, after meeting with the sponsors and staff from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, those concerns have been addressed. The department has agreed to fund any waivers granted under this statute with state resources and address any related issues with the state's waiting list through the administrative rulemaking process.

With this agreement in place, we are pleased to offer our support for HB 287, and we applaud Representatives Russo and Perales for taking the lead in extending supports for military families in new ways. Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.