

Teresa Lampl, Chief Executive Officer
Testimony Submitted for the Record
Am. Sub. House Bill 166 (SFY 2020-2021 Biennial Budget)
Senate Finance Committee
June 17, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Amended Substitute House Bill 166 (HB 166) that is pending before this committee. I am Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (the Ohio Council). The Ohio Council is a statewide trade and advocacy organization representing over 150 private businesses that deliver prevention, addiction treatment, mental health, and family services throughout Ohio.

In Am. Sub. HB 166, Governor DeWine has provided a clear vision, strong leadership and steadfast commitment to investing in Ohio's future and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of Ohioans. Likewise, the Ohio Council appreciates the thorough examination of the biennial budget conducted by the Ohio House and Senate. The Ohio Council was pleased with the bill that passed the Ohio House and we are optimistic that the funding and policy decisions made by this committee and incorporated into the Senate's final product will be consistent and maintain much of the DeWine administration's key policy and investments aims.

The Ohio Council applauds the initial Senate substitute of HB 166 for its recognition and commitment to addressing the mental health and addiction crisis in Ohio. The Senate's support for maintaining the integrity of the Ohio Medicaid program and key children's services and student wellness resources; expanding treatment capacity; bolstering the continuum of care with new crisis stabilization and prevention services; supporting policies to prevent child custody relinquishment and implement recommendations from the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth; and growing the behavioral healthcare workforce are all sound policy decisions and smart investments in the health and economic wellbeing of Ohioans. The Ohio Council appreciates the Senate Finance Committee's work and encourages the Senate to retain these provisions in any final measure passed by this body.

Additionally, the Ohio Council would offer the following recommendations for the Senate Finance Committee's consideration as it develops the omnibus substitute to HB 166. These policy and funding recommendations are:

- Enhance funding to prevent custody relinquishment of multi-system youth and restore the Medicaid Multisystem Youth Funding to the House levels of \$10 million per year;
- Restore funding for ODE student wellness and success program to the House levels of \$675 million over the biennium;

- Restores funding for OhioMHAS K-12 prevention education;
- Restore authority for statewide public awareness campaign to address prevention and stigma;
- Restore ODM's permissive authority for inclusion of mental health and addiction services in the Medicaid managed care system;
- Include community behavioral health centers as eligible settings for purposes of any Rural Healthcare Training and Retention Program;

Chairman Dolan and distinguished members of the Senate Finance Committee, I suspect that all members of the Senate need no reminder that Ohio faces an unrelenting mental health addiction challenge – individuals, families, employers and whole communities are suffering. The policy initiatives and resources included in HB 166 that address this public health crisis will surely yield positive results – some will be immediate, some in the near term, while others will not be realized for many years down the road. The Ohio Senate working in concert with the House and DeWine administration can set us on the right course.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Teresa Lampl
Chief Executive Officer