

**SB 316 - Proponent Testimony**  
**Allison Poulios, Director of Government Relations**  
**The MetroHealth System**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**Chairman Matt Dolan**  
**June 3, 2020**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Allison Poulios and I am the Director of Government Relations for The MetroHealth System. We are proponents of SB 316, the capital reappropriations legislation introduced by Senator Matt Dolan. This legislation provides capital project support of \$750,000 for MetroHealth's West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Revitalization project.

This project is an important component of efforts by MetroHealth and its community partners to enhance the neighborhood around our main campus. While we are engaged in a physical transformation of the campus that includes building a new hospital and creating a community park, we also want to transform the lives of our neighbors by reinventing the delivery of health care, improving health equity and changing how our patients and the community experience and learn about health and wellness. To achieve those goals in a community that has seen years of disinvestment, we must work to address social determinants of health including housing and education. This capital project investment will provide high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services in a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College.

Specifically, the \$750,000 in state capital funds will be used for the Tri-C Access Center, in a space called the Economic Opportunity Center. MetroHealth will partner with Tri-C to expand educational and workforce training opportunities in this space. The funding will be used to build out 5,000 square feet for workforce training, financial education, digital literacy, and healthy cooking classes. MetroHealth and Cuyahoga Community College have a Memorandum of Understanding for the Access Center to cooperate and coordinate in activities to increase access and opportunities related to education and workforce development in the surrounding community. This is part of MetroHealth's mission to develop programming and partnerships that address the social determinants of health and drive better health outcomes.

Once again, Chairman Dolan and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration and we urge your support of SB 316. Please let me if you have any questions.

Thank you.