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Senator Dave Burke
Chairman
Committee on Health, Human Services, and Medicaid
Ohio Senate
10.8.2019

Chairman Burke,

We, the undersigned members of the Cradle Cincinnati Policy Committee, write in support of HB 11 and its significant efforts to improve health outcomes tied to infant mortality rates in Ohio. Cradle Cincinnati is a collective impact collaborative that has helped reduce infant mortality in Hamilton County, OH to the lowest rate in the county's history this past year.

We are grateful to the co-sponsors, Representatives Manning and Howse for introducing HB 11 and to the Ohio House for passing the bill unanimously. We write to the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee to express our support.

We support the comprehensive approach in HB 11 to address four elements of prenatal health: Smoking cessation, dental hygiene, lead education, and group prenatal care. I would like to specifically highlight the positive impact of group pre-natal care.

We believe that this bill will help improve Ohio's infant mortality rate. We know that stress is a contributor to extreme preterm birth, and we also know that extreme preterm birth is the number one cause of infant death before a child's first birthday. We are confident that the items included in HB 11 will help reduce a mother's stress and improve birth outcomes. We are especially excited about the dollars allocated for group prenatal care.

The group prenatal care model has shown to significantly improve maternal and child health outcomes, particularly for African American women being served across the state of Ohio. Expanding group prenatal care throughout Ohio can save significant lives and health care dollars with less days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for our newborns.

We looking forward to supporting efforts to move the bill expeditiously through the committee process and a vote on the Senate floor so that the increased support for infant mortality efforts can take effect and Cradle Cincinnati and its partners can continue to grow its group prenatal care program.

Sincerely –

Amy Murray
Councilwoman
City of Cincinnati

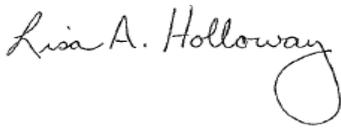
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Ali Kathman
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Hamilton County Public Health



Jill Miller
President
Bethesda Inc. and bi3



Sarah Mills
CEO
Health Care Access Now

cc: Senator Nicki Antonio, Ranking Member
Senator Stephen Huffman, Vice Chair
Senator Theresa Gavarone
Senator Bob Hackett
Senator Jay Hottinger
Senator Stephanie Kunze
Senator Peggy Lehner
Senator Tina Maharath
Senator Kristina Roegner