

51st House District
Portions of Butler County, including
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Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6721
(800) 282-0253
Rep51@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov



Sara P. Carruthers
Ohio State Representative

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House Bill 210 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee
January 22, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 210, which will establish safeguards to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in child daycare and preschool facilities.

Tuberculosis (Tb) is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide, with 10 million cases in 2017. In the United States, there were 9,105 cases of Tb in 2017 and the number of attributable deaths rose from 470 in 2015 to 528 in 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Ohio, there were 178 cases of Tb in 2018, which represents an increase of 19.5% from 2017. Most of the cases in Ohio were among foreign-born citizens and occurred in the larger, urban counties. A typical Tb case requires 180 days of medications, x-rays, lab tests, follow-up and testing of contacts. Annualized costs to treat each case can conservatively range from \$20,000 to \$195,000 depending on the type of Tb.

Last year, in Hamilton County, there was a potential outbreak of Tb among young children due to a daycare worker with a highly infectious case of Tb. Consequently, all of the children in the daycare center needed to be tested for Tb, and if positive, receive treatment from a pediatrician. The local cost for this Tb exposure investigation exceeded \$40,000. This issue was brought to my attention by Representative Seitz, who worked closely with the Hamilton County Health Commissioner to find a solution that will help prevent incidents such as these.

House Bill 210 would require testing of potential daycare and preschool workers for Tb prior to their employment, if a person formerly resided in a country identified by the World Health Organization as having a high burden of tuberculosis, and that person arrived in the United States within five years immediately preceding the date they applied for employment. After House Bill 210 passed the House, Tim Ingram, Hamilton County Health Commissioner, reached out to my office stating, "The CDC changed their Tb screening recommendations to require health care workers to be tested for Tb once and only once prior to employment, unless they develop symptoms for Tb later".

The cost of a Tb skin test averages less than \$40. If a potential daycare or preschool worker is found negative for Tb, they may be employed. If found positive for Tb, that person must undergo

additional testing and a treatment regimen as prescribed by a licensed health professional. Until the person submits evidence that he or she has completed the entire treatment regimen and is free of the disease, the childcare facility may not employ the person, or, if already employed, may not allow the person to be physically present at the facility. All Tb results will be reported to the local health department.

This legislation would also require Ohio Job and Family Services to work with the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments by releasing public recipient information when a declared Tb investigation has been determined. This provision will ensure that local health departments have timely access to accurate information needed to carry out an exposure investigation and prevent the disease from spreading.

In summary, House Bill 210 is a preventative piece of legislation which will ensure that employees of child daycare and preschool facilities are free of this dangerous disease before they are employed. By passing this legislation, we have the opportunity to help keep Ohio's children safe and healthy, and avoid dangerous situations like the one in Hamilton County last year.

Thank you Chairman Burke and I would be happy to answer any questions.