



Proponent Testimony: House Bill 405
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
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Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 405, the Family Forward Initiative, which would create a new state linked-deposit program, administered by the Treasurer of State's Office, to facilitate affordable adoption loans for Ohioans. House Bill 405 is the companion legislation to Senate Bill 361, which the League also supports.

The Ohio Credit Union League is the state association representing the interests of Ohio's 251 federally and state-chartered credit unions and their more than three million members. With the "people helping people" philosophy at the heart of credit union service, helping Ohioans support a growing family is right in the credit union wheelhouse. House Bill 405 would enable eligible lending institutions, like Ohio credit unions, to partner with the Treasurer of State's Office to offer low-cost loans to cover the expenses associated with the adoption process.

We would like to thank Treasurer Sprague, Representative Cross and Senator Burke for their leadership in working to enact the Family Forward Initiative. Credit unions look forward to bringing families together should this legislation be enacted.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.