



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee

Proponent Testimony on SB30

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Chair Carruthers, Vice-Chair Pavliga, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the Committee, I am pleased to submit this written proponent testimony on behalf of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for sound public policy, promotes program excellence, and builds public value for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities

PCSAO and our member agencies support SB30. The opioid epidemic has hit Ohio's families hard, causing disruption, separation and trauma for parents and children alike. It is a tragedy when a child must enter the child welfare system as a result of a parent's substance use and/or overdose. Unfortunately, the number of children coming into agency custody due to parental opioid use has grown significantly in recent years.

PCSAO leads the Ohio START¹ program in partnership with the Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Now active in 52 counties, Ohio START is a children-services-led initiative that has been shown to improve outcomes for both parents and children affected by child maltreatment and parental substance

¹ [Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma](#)

use disorders. START uses a family-centered approach and services that help the child, parents, and the entire family.

Ohio's addiction epidemic is far from over and its consequences will be long-lasting. We appreciate the General Assembly's commitment to building awareness of Ohio's addiction epidemic and urge you to support SB30. Thank you.