

Committees:

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**Representative Latyna M. Humphrey and Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz
The Ohio House Of Representatives**

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Sponsor testimony for H.B. 593: Allow use of campaign funds to pay certain childcare costs.

Chair Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Government Oversight Committee, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B.593, which aims to increase representation of working parents running for office statewide & locally by allowing them to use their campaign funds to pay for child & dependent care expenses.

I would like to start off by thanking my Joint sponsor, Representative Seitz and our fellow co-sponsors. SB 122, which is identical & was introduced in the Senate last month & has also had its first hearing.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved the use of campaign funds for childcare. This momentous decision gained support from States all over including: **Arkansas, Colorado, Montana, Utah & West Virginia.**

With the support of Congress, the use of campaign funds for childcare was approved unanimously and supported by the FEC. But what about state and local offices?

Under the current Ohio law, State & local candidates are not permitted to use their campaign funds for childcare & dependent care expenses. This causes a lack of representation and support for families. According to the Vote Mama Foundation, in America 86% of American women over the age of 44 are mothers. However, only 6% of congressional representatives in the U.S. 117th Congressional GA are mothers with children under the age of 18.

As you can see, the problem is that there aren't enough working parents and caregivers represented in state & local offices. This bill will break financial barriers for working parents running for office, and ultimately increase representation from among working parents in state legislatures by ensuring no candidate is discouraged from running for office due to childcare costs.

As legislators it is our duty to break institutional barriers, and ensure equity to ALL Ohio citizens. This bill provides an excellent opportunity for members of the Ohio House to dismantle those barriers.

And with that, I would like to again thank my joint sponsor Representative Seitz, for his willingness to take on the fight, and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you.