

## **Ohio: House Committee on Government Oversight 4/27/2022**

My name is Louisa Duggan - I'm the Executive Assistant and Special Projects Fellow at Vote Mama Foundation and am speaking on behalf of the organization in strong support of House Bill 593.

In 2018, Vote Mama Foundation Founder & CEO Liuba Grechen Shirley petitioned the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and became the first woman to receive federal approval to use her Campaign Funds for Childcare.

This groundbreaking decision was approved by a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Over fifty federal candidates have since used their campaign funds to pay for childcare — both moms and dads, Democrats and Republicans.

However, the ruling on Liuba's request does not apply to candidates running for state and local office.

Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working with legislators across the country to introduce legislation to approve the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare by state and local candidates.

We know that the first step to empowering a diverse pipeline of working caregivers to run for office is for candidates to no longer have to consider the cost of childcare in weighing their decision to run.

Our country needs middle and working class representation now more than ever. Campaign Funds for Childcare breaks down a critical economic barrier to working caregivers running for office.

14 states, including Ohio, have introduced Campaign Funds for Childcare legislation just this legislative session.

16 states have passed similar laws allowing the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare - we hope Ohio will become the 17th!

Vote Mama Foundation thanks Rep. Humphrey and Rep. Seitz for their leadership on this legislation. We urge the Committee to support HB593.

Thank you.