



## Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council

**Lisa Raterman**

**Chair, Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council**

*Proponent – House Bill 185*

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer support of House Bill 185, sponsored by State Representative Bride Sweeney. As the Chair of the Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council, I am submitting this on behalf of the parents, patients, and providers who are members of OBDC.

As you know, HB 185 would designate March as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month. Bleeding disorders are characterized by the inability of the patient to form a proper blood clot. These patients will often experience extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or other health issue. Sometimes the bleeding is spontaneous, without a known or identifiable cause.

The two main types of bleeding disorders are Hemophilia and von Willebrand Disease. In one-third of cases, there is no family history of hemophilia. In Ohio, there are more than 1,200 individuals living with hemophilia and 1,500 living with von Willebrand Disease. This is one of the largest populations nationwide.

HB 185 would bring important awareness regarding the signs, symptoms, and treatment of bleeding disorders. This is not only important for the public, but also for providers who may be caring for patients with hemophilia or another condition. Education for patients and their families as well as healthcare practitioners is critical to ensuring Ohioans with a bleeding disorder are able to live full and healthy lives.

I want to thank the committee for their support of this important legislation and for bringing awareness and support to individuals living with a bleeding disorder in Ohio. Thank you for your time.