

October 26, 2021

Cassie Smith

Coshocton, OH

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee:

We had a family of five at the time we purchased our home in 2014. Over the course of time, we started getting various sicknesses and we weren't sure where they were coming from. It was anywhere from food sensitivities, to severe anxiety and thyroid issues. We didn't know much about mold, except that we knew black mold was very bad for you. Well, by God's grace we came to find that we had a white form of mold in our basement, as well as our attic. Many homes will vent their bathroom exhaust fan into the attic and that has the potential to cause mold. This can cause many people to get seriously ill very slowly over a long period of time and can be very damaging. This is what happened to my family and we are still in the midst of picking up all the pieces.

It would be a blessing to our state and communities to make an awareness of mold illness and different ways it can accumulate in the home. We have had a challenging time finding remediators to help us, and doctors to help my young children. It has been very stressful. Passing HB 251, The Ohio Indoor Safe Air Act, would greatly benefit Ohioans so they can learn more about how their environment impacts their health. This is a misunderstood topic, and our doctors, remediators, and contractors need to be properly educated so as to prevent this illness from occurring. We need measures in place for real estate. This would have saved my family much undue stress, thousands of dollars we didn't have, and our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Once people are ill from mold, it is very hard to get well again, and we are learning that first hand. This bill would greatly reduce the number of families having to go through this trauma.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cassie Smith