



May 13th, 2021

Ohio Senate
Finance Committee
Re: Amendments to SUB HB 110

Chairperson Dolan and Senate Finance Committee Members:

I write in support of the three amendments to SUB HB 110 and their significant efforts to improve health outcomes tied to infant mortality rates in Ohio. Cradle Cincinnati is a widespread collaborative that has helped reduce infant mortality in Hamilton County, OH to the lowest rate in the county's history in 2020.

All three of these amendments seek to address issues that can lead to extreme preterm birth which is the number one cause of infant death. These amendments and our support are listed below:

- 1) **Supporting home visiting programs, such as Help Me Grow.** Programs such as Every Child Succeeds in Cincinnati can decrease instance of low-weight births by 48% and increase the likelihood of mothers to be enrolled in an education or training program by 5 times.
- 2) **Extending Medicaid Postpartum Coverage.** Half of Ohio babies are born to women who receive Medicaid and one in every three pregnancy-related maternal deaths occur one week to one year postpartum.
- 3) **Expanding Access for Ohio's Publicly-Funded Childcare.** At Cradle Cincinnati our strategy includes a focus on stress as a contributor to extreme preterm birth which is a major driver of infant death. As such, we are supportive in this bill as it would result in less stress for moms in our community.

We appreciate your thoughtful deliberation on these matters, and we look forward to continue working with the Ohio Senate to make Ohio the best place for women to be pregnant, deliver babies, and raise them to adulthood.

Respectfully,



Ryan Adcock
Executive Director