

HUMAN SERVICE CHAMBER

OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

February 22, 2021

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

The Human Service Chamber of Franklin County opposes passage of Ohio Senate Bill 17, which would create new barriers to healthy meals, healthcare, and unemployment insurance. Such efforts would be problematic in normal times; that this is being proposed amidst the most significant health and economic emergencies our state has faced in a century makes it all the more troubling.

Our 110 member agencies--local and statewide providers of healthcare, housing, food, education, workforce supports, and more--have seen the perilous consequences of the last eleven months better than most. And our members have been supported in their Herculean efforts to provide help and hope by leaders in government and business and education and health systems alike since March 2020.

And that is precisely why this legislation is so troublesome. Rather than helping Ohioans, this legislation would hurt them by restricting access to food, Medicaid, and financial support by punishing workers and creating more barriers for people of all ages to get the help they need.

As of this writing, 737,000 Ohioans don't have enough to eat over a week's time. And one in five of Ohio's children are living in poverty--and over 130,000 children are uninsured.

Let us cultivate opportunity, not restrict it; let us improve access to nutritious meals and quality, affordable healthcare; let us help one another through this perilous time--let's not pull the rug out from underneath those in need.

We urge Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee to oppose Senate Bill 17 and work towards policies that support the safety and security of all Ohioans.

Respectfully submitted in conjunction with members listed below:



Michael Corey
Executive Director
Human Service Chamber of Franklin County

Cosignatories

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL OHIO

ALVIS, INC.

BESA COMMUNITY

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL OHIO

BISHOP GRIFFIN RESOURCE CENTER

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HOUSE

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND-OHIO

CITY YEAR COLUMBUS

CLC WORKS

CLINTONVILLE-BEECHWOLD COMMUNITY RESOURCES CENTER

COLUMBUS EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

COLUMBUS URBAN LEAGUE

COLUMBUS WORKS, INC.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF OHIO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE

COMMUNITY HOUSING NETWORK

COMMUNITY KITCHEN, INC.

COMMUNITY REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SERVICES (CRIS)

CONCORD COUNSELING SERVICES

CREATIVE LIVING

DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

DRESS FOR SUCCESS COLUMBUS

EQUITAS HEALTH

Cosignatories

FREEDOM A LA CART

FURNITURE BANK OF CENTRAL OHIO

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF CENTRAL OHIO

GLADDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE

GODMAN GUILD ASSOCIATION

GOODWILL COLUMBUS

HOMELESS FAMILIES FOUNDATION

HOMEPORT

HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE

I AM BOUNDLESS, INC.

IMPACT COMMUNITY ACTION

JEFFERSON AVENUE CENTER

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

KALEIDOSCOPE YOUTH CENTER

LOCAL MATTERS

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF OHIO

MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE

MUSLIM FAMILY SERVICES OF OHIO

MY PROJECT USA

NETCARE ACCESS

NEW DIRECTIONS CAREER CENTER

NORTH COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTERS, INC.

PER SCHOLAS COLUMBUS

PRIMARYONE HEALTH

Cosignatories

RESIDENT RESOURCES NETWORK

SIEMER INSTITUTE

SOUTH SIDE EARLY LEARNING

ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE

ST. VINCENT FAMILY CENTER

THE 52 MILLION PROJECT

THE CENTER FOR FAMILY SAFETY AND HEALING

THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES

UNITED SCHOOLS NETWORK

US TOGETHER, INC.

YMCA OF CENTRAL OHIO

YOUTH YOGA PROJECT

YWCA COLUMBUS