



November 15, 2021

The Buckeye Ranch Testimony on SB 239.

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today regarding Senate Bill 239.

My name is Vickie Thompson-Sandy; I am the President and CEO of The Buckeye Ranch.

This legislation would support the important work that we do with Ohio's foster youth. Workforce shortage has been challenging in the social service/behavioral health sector in Ohio and increasing with the pandemic. This year The Buckeye Ranch had the opportunity to add three adoption assessor positions through a privately funded donation to help us increase the number of foster/adoptive homes to meet the growing need for children to be in a family setting.

This legislation will ensure quality while allowing private agencies to keep with the growing demand for staff. If passed, it will ensure that The Buckeye Ranch continues to find safe and stable homes for Ohio's children in need of care.

Please consider SB 239 to allow private agencies to have the same flexibilities as our PCSA partners who also support children and youth in Foster Care. The Buckeye Ranch supports expanding eligibility to perform the duties of a Home Assessor.

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today regarding Senate Bill 239. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

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