

# Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

## American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Honorable Andy Brenner  
Chairman, Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
Ohio Senate  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Brenner and Members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 105, sponsored by State Representatives Scott Lipps and Brigid Kelly. This legislation would help to protect Ohio children from sexual abuse and sexual violence.

As you know, HB 105 would require Ohio schools to provide age-appropriate education on sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention to students as well as requiring school staff to have training on child sexual abuse prevention. Further, HB 105 requires the Ohio Department of Education to provide curricula and resources on its website to assist schools in implementing this legislation. The bill also allows parents and guardians to inspect these educational resources, thereby allowing oversight and transparency. HB 105 passed the Ohio House of Representatives 86 – 8 more than 18 months ago and has strong bipartisan support from lawmakers; proponents represent a wide array of healthcare providers, advocates, and citizens who want to see this important legislation enacted.

Awareness and prevention are important tools to keep children healthy and safe. Pediatricians routinely provide anticipatory guidance and screenings on sexual abuse and violence to children and parents in order to increase awareness and hopefully to help avoid these traumatic events. HB 105 would greatly assist us by providing another opportunity for children to receive age-appropriate education on how to spot and prevent sexual abuse and violence.

In closing, it is my hope that you will pass HB 105 and take this important step to keep our children safe. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervev Arnold".

Melissa Wervev Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

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#### Ohio Chapter

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