



October 1, 2021

Chairwoman Stephanie Kunze
Ohio Senate
Transportation Committee

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of SB 174, which creates the *On Our Sleeves* license plate. *On Our Sleeves* is a national movement to break stigmas around children's mental health – mental health and wellness is one of the least talked-about topics in pediatrics.

The need is great – 1 in 5 children is living with a mental illness, 50% of lifetime mental illness presents before the age of 14, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people.

Children don't wear their thoughts or feelings on their sleeves, so we need to give them a voice. *On Our Sleeves*®, powered by behavioral health experts at Nationwide Children's Hospital, aims to provide every community in America with free resources necessary for breaking child mental health stigmas and educating families and advocates, because no child or family should struggle alone.

Since the inception of the program in 2018, more than 2 million people have interacted with our free pediatric mental health educational resources at OnOurSleeves.org and our educator curricula have reached more than 1.8 million students across the United States.

The revenue from SB 174 will go directly to communities to access free, evidence-based educational resources for children's mental wellness. This includes educational content, lesson plans for schools, and activities for schools and organizations.

Thank you to Senators Brenner and Maharath for recognizing the importance of *On Our Sleeves* and for introducing this legislation. For more information on our educational resources in Ohio, click [here](#).

We urge the committee to support SB 174.

Marti Post
Executive Director, *On Our Sleeves*