

Memorandum to the House Committee on Behavioral Health Services

From: The Ohio Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence

Date: April 23, 2024

Subj: Written Testimony in Support of HB 300

Chair Pavliga, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brewer and members of the House Behavioral Health Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer this statement of support for HB 300, legislation that would establish and fund a new and novel pilot program under the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) to expand access to life-saving medications for opioid use disorder.

The Ohio Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (OATOD) – a division of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers – is a statewide advocacy coalition consisting of twenty (21) organizations that operate approximately one hundred (100) out of the one hundred thirteen (113) federally certified and state-licensed opioid treatment programs (OTP) in Ohio. OTPs are the only recognized healthcare sites where all three forms of medication-assisted treatment (methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone) can be offered, and the exclusive healthcare entity authorized to provide methadone as treatment for opioid use disorder.

OATOD applauds the sponsors of HB 300 (Representatives Baker and Ray) for their keen insight and leadership in addressing the continuing scourge of the opioid crisis. OATOD appreciates their willingness to support new and creative strategies to expand treatment modalities and invest in technology that promote patient centered approaches to medication assisted treatment and improved outcomes for Ohioans.

OATOD stands ready to partner with OhioMHAS and other stakeholders to collaborate and support the successful implementation of this pilot project once approved by lawmakers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of HB 300. If you have any questions or want to discuss this matter in greater detail, please contact Geoff Collver of the Ohio Council at collver@theohiocouncil.org.