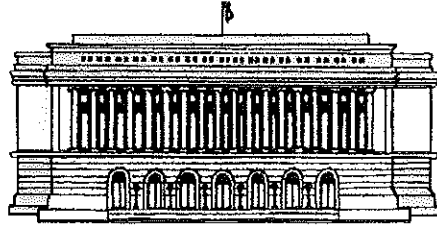


# JURY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE



**JURY COMMISSIONER**

*Bradley J. Seitz*

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**HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Chairman Hillyer, Vice-Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Galonski, and Members of the Civil Justice Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of H.B. 34.

My name is Brad Seitz and I am the Chief Deputy Jury Commissioner in Hamilton County, having served in this or a similar role for 10 ½ years. I am also a former President of the Ohio Jury Management Association and current Board Member of the same.

As Chief Deputy Jury Commissioner I receive numerous calls from concerned citizens with young children at home. They are all wondering how they will be able to balance the need to take care of their young child with the call to serve on jury duty. While we offer amenities in a comfortable and private environment, and make it clear that mothers have access to such, this is not always enough. As a father of 4 I have seen numerous times the needs of the mother of a young child. I have witnessed the discomfort both physically and mentally when my wife was in public and needed to express to feed our children. We do not have the ability to offer daycare to the children of our prospective jurors which means a mother is gone from her child for as many as 10 hours a day. For these reasons we will excuse a mother who is still breast feeding and/or pumping IF we receive a call in advance inquiring about the ability to be excused, and provided that they send written explanation. However, this does not account for the numerous mothers who do not take the time to contact our office or do not know that breastfeeding is a reasonable excuse. If H.B. 34 becomes a law we would be better able to inform mothers and prospective jurors of their ability to be excused from jury service for this reason by including that information on the summons and on our website.

For the reasons listed above I am in support of H.B. 34 and believe that it would not only ease the burden on our Jury Commission staff, but also, and much more importantly, reduce the stress and concern on prospective jurors who have young children at home who rely on their mothers for their health and ability to grow and prosper. Thank you for your time and consideration. I wish you a great day!

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Seitz