

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Ronda Brown Daniels

5518 Aqua Street

Columbus OH 43229

IN SUPPORT OF: HOUSE BILL 7

FAMILIES AND AGING

May 7, 2023

Greetings, Chairperson Schmidt, and Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families and Aging Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the proponent's testimony on House Bill 7, the Strong Foundations Act on behalf of the Cares Economy Organizing project. I support House Bill number 7, which is a strong foundation for mothers and babies addressing maternal and infant mortality and can improve health and developmental outcomes.

I too believe by supporting these strong foundations for Ohio mothers and babies in their first one thousand days to address maternal and infant mortality, can improve health and developmental outcomes for babies, mothers, and families by expanding prenatal, postnatal, and infant and toddler services and supports. Unfortunately, it has been reported that the rate among Black infants is in the highest rate of infant mortality, followed by the Appalachia Ohio community.

I too believe that one important way to ensure Ohio kids are getting the care they need is to offer continuous Medicaid eligibility. Allowing children with Medicaid to maintain their coverage regardless of temporary household income restrictions can offer consistent access to their well care visits, vaccinations, and specialty care they need to start school ready to learn.

I am asking you to join Chairperson Schmidt, Ranking Member Denson, members, and I to support House Bill 7, for I work families and know first-hand how these policies will impact them.

Thank you.

Ronda Brown Daniels