
To: The Honorable Jay Edwards, Chair of the House Finance Committee
From: Todd Barnhouse, Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association
on behalf of The Alliance for Early Education
Date: April 18, 2023
RE: H.B.33 Written Testimony for House Finance Committee

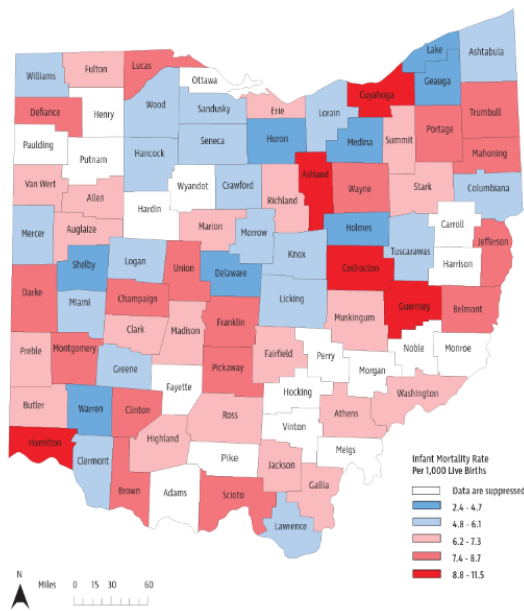
Chair Edwards, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, on behalf of The Alliance for Early Education, comprised of members of the Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC), Ohio Association of Child Care Providers (OACCP), and Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRA), we respectfully submit written testimony for consideration by the House Finance Committee to restore the H.B. 33 appropriation of \$150.0 million in FY 2024 in Fund 5CV3 line item 6006A7, ARPA Childcare as proposed in H.B. 33: Governor DeWine’s Executive Budget Proposal Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. These one-time state fiscal recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will create additional infant and toddler capacity and support the early childhood workforce, “the workforce behind the workforce”.

The proposed language in the Governor’s Executive budget requires the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, in consultation with the Department of Children and Youth, to establish a child care scholarship for critical occupations and other direct service professionals and increase access to licensed child care programs for infants and toddlers. The bill requires individuals awarded the child care scholarships to have incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level. Please consider restoring this funding to:

- Provide one-time scholarships for recruitment & retention of early childhood professionals. Propose using child care age groups to create tiered scholarships to recruit and retain early childhood professionals and kinship families.

- Create Infant Toddler Capacity Building – incentivize Centers and Family Child Care homes to create new capacity to serve infants and toddlers by opening or reopening classrooms or opening new family child care homes. To ensure new programs are serving previously unserved children (rather than children simply moving providers) the application will focus on determining need and will prioritize children in our communities with the highest infant mortality rate to ensure the most vulnerable, at-risk children and families are reached first. Communities with a 6.1 per 1,000 or higher infant mortality rate will be prioritized.

Figure 5: Five-Year Infant Mortality Rate by County, Ohio (2015–2019)



Thank you for your continued support for Ohio’s children, families, and workforce, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or would like to further discuss this request. I can be reached at tbarnhouse@ocrra.org or (614) 357-3779.