



**Representative Latyna M. Humphrey and Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz
The Ohio House Of Representatives**

March 28th, 2023

Sponsor testimony for H.B. 114: Allow use of campaign funds to pay certain childcare costs.

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Forhan, and members of the Government Oversight Committee, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B.114, which aims to increase representation of working parents running for office statewide & locally by allowing them to use their campaign funds to pay for child & dependent care expenses.

I would like to start off by thanking my Joint Sponsor, Representative Seitz and our fellow co-sponsors! In addition to that, I would like to thank the GO committee for passing this bill unanimously out of the committee and the OHR for passing this bill out of the House in the 134th GA.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved the use of campaign funds for childcare. This momentous decision gained support from States all over including: **Arkansas, Colorado, Montana, Utah & West Virginia**. In total, 26 states have conformed their state campaign finance laws to those of the Federal Election Commission.

With the support of Congress, the use of campaign funds for childcare was approved unanimously and supported by the FEC. But what about state and local offices?

Under the current Ohio law, state & local candidates are not permitted to use their campaign funds for childcare & dependent care expenses while on the campaign trail. This causes a lack of representation and support for families. In fact, in the Ohio General Assembly, relative to the overall population in the state, a relatively small percentage of legislators are mothers with school-aged children.

As you can see, the problem is that there aren't enough working parents and caregivers represented in state & local offices. This bill will break financial barriers for working parents running for office, and ultimately increase representation from among working parents in state legislatures by ensuring no candidate is discouraged from running for office due to childcare costs.

As legislators it is our duty to break institutional barriers, and ensure equity to ALL Ohio citizens. This bill provides an excellent opportunity for members of the Ohio House to dismantle those barriers.

And with that, I would like to again thank my Joint Sponsor Representative Seitz, for his willingness to take on the fight, and I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you.