



**Kimberly Green, MSN, RN, C-EFM
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The MetroHealth System
HB 190 -Proponent Testimony
House Public Health Policy Committee
October 11, 2023**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 190 (“HB 7”), a bill that would help bring more awareness to a public health crisis in Ohio.

My name is Kimberley Green and I serve as MetroHealth’s Vice President for Women and Children’s Services and the Administrator for our Nurse Family Partnership program. MetroHealth is a super safety-net provider located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which includes the City of Cleveland and its surrounding suburbs. Founded in 1837, MetroHealth has served Cuyahoga County longer than any other Cleveland healthcare organization.

MetroHealth plays an essential role in the region, caring for anyone and everyone, regardless of ability to pay, while being committed to improving the health of the community and eradicating healthcare disparities. Our staff of more than 650 physicians, 2,000 nurses, and 8,700 employees provides care at MetroHealth’s four hospitals, four emergency departments, plus a network of 23 community-based health centers and more than 40 additional sites throughout the region. In the past year, MetroHealth has served more than 300,000 unique patients during almost 1.5 million visits in its hospitals and health centers, 75 percent of whom are uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Last year, more than 2,600 babies were delivered at MetroHealth. The health system is also home to Cuyahoga County’s most experienced Level I Adult Trauma Center, verified since 1992, and Ohio’s only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center.

MetroHealth also created and launched the Institute for H.O.P.E., to help improve health through opportunity, partnership, and empowerment. The creation was rooted in the recognition that we needed to reach out to our patients beyond our hospital walls so that we can identify and help eliminate potential barriers to their health and well-being. One example of these efforts - in 2022, we screened 24,574 patients for social drivers of health and made 19,805 connections to address the social needs identified. Additional highlights can be found here - [I4HOPE Annual Report-Digital 4-2023.pdf](#)

Elevating Black Maternal Health

Too many moms and infants in Cuyahoga County die from preventable conditions. Moms do not get the support they need, when they need it, and where they need it. And too often it is Black moms that are not receiving this support. In Cuyahoga County, black women and children make up 70% of all infant deaths and over half of pregnancy associated deaths – the largest disparities in Ohio.

The solutions lie upstream and should be designed by women and implemented at the neighborhood level. The poorest census tract in Ohio is in Cuyahoga County – 70% of adults are female, 80% of those females are non-white, less than 1% have a bachelor’s degree, half pay more than 50% of their monthly income for rent and most households do not have internet access. Additionally, 4 out of the



10 most socially vulnerable zip codes in Ohio are in Cuyahoga County. Therefore, it shouldn't be a surprise that women in these areas have some of the lowest rates of preventive visits in Ohio – despite being in a County that's home to world class healthcare providers.

HB 190 will help bring awareness not only to the need to improve healthcare delivery for black women, but also to the upstream maternal health challenges in Cuyahoga County. We want to root these initiatives in the communities that need them most, and design programs based on what women and families need to be healthy. I urge full support and swift passage of HB 190.