



Proponent Testimony – House Bill 33

Lisa Raterman, Chair

Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council

Senate Finance Committee

May 25th, 2023

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the patients, families, advocates, and clinicians who comprise the Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council. I am grateful for the support the Ohio General Assembly has shown our community in the past.

Our top priority is inclusion of Amendment SC-1257 into HB 33. This amendment continues work that was began two years ago in HB 110 (134th) to raise the age of eligibility for the Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program. We are also supportive of the proposed name change for CMH to the Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, which is currently included in HB 33.

Prior to 2021, the CMH program provided services and supports to children until they reached age 21. In HB 110, the General Assembly raised the age limit to 22 in SFY22 and 23 in SFY23; the legislature also included a funding increase for CMH to cover the cost of this increase. Effectively, we are allowing young adults who would have aged out of CMH in SFY21 to remain on the program for two additional years. Our overall goal is to allow these individuals to receive coverage until age 26; this mirrors federal law that allows children to remain on their parent's health insurance to through age 25.

SC-1257 would increase the eligibility age for CMH to age 24 in SFY24 and 25 in SFY25. Further, the amendment increases funding in the amount of \$500,000 per fiscal year to cover the cost of continuous enrollment for this group. Lastly, the amendment would also raise the age of coverage to age 26 in SFY26, which would be funded in the next budget.

The CMH program provides support and resources for parents of children with major health care needs. CMH primarily supports families with private insurance whose health care costs are significant. While CMH represents an extremely small portion of the overall budget, it has a huge impact on our community and other families in Ohio.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please adopt SC-1257 into HB 33 and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.