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# Ohio CSEA Directors' Association

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**Senate Finance Committee  
Testimony of Amy Roehrenbeck, Esq.  
Ohio CSEA Directors' Association  
HB33  
June 8, 2023**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB33 on behalf of the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA). OCDA is a membership organization of county child support enforcement agencies (CSEAs), dedicated to strengthening Ohio's child support program. My name is Amy Roehrenbeck, and I am the Executive Director for OCDA.

The as-introduced and House passed versions of HB33 contained a number of no-cost, important policy provisions regarding child support, including critical changes that will ensure that caretakers can access child support services consistently across the state. These provisions were removed in the substitute bill, and we respectfully request that you restore these provisions in the budget.

Caretakers are presently treated differently across Ohio when it comes to accessing child support services. These caretakers can be grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, or others that have stepped up to serve as the primary caregiver for a child that is not their own. Nearly 50% of the counties cannot provide services to a caretaker who has physical custody of a child, most noting that their courts require legal custody before child support can be addressed. The other 50% can provide some or all services to caretakers, which means that our ability to provide child support services to this growing caseload depends solely on where they live in Ohio. It should not matter in which county a caretaker resides—all caretakers need access to child support services.

These caretaker provisions are the culmination of over a decade of work with stakeholders on the issue of child support following the child and we have not encountered opposition to these changes.



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The majority of caretakers seeking child support services are in informal custody arrangements outside of the child welfare system, and child support could be a resource for these families that could keep them from entering the system.

If these provisions are not restored, then in the 50% of counties that aren't able to provide services, any child support paid for these children will continue to go to a parent that is not serving as the primary caregiver for the child, instead of into the household that is actually caring for the child.

We respectfully request that you restore these critical policy changes to HB33 and allow us to provide consistent services to caretaker relatives who seek our help. If you need more information about any of the caretaker provisions, I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.