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**Committees:**  
*Local Government (Chair)*  
*Education (Vice-Chair)*  
*Agriculture & Natural Resources*  
*Transportation*

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**Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 159**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**Senator Sandra O'Brien**  
**November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to deliver sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 159.

Senate Bill 159 would authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for donations to pregnancy resource centers (PRCs). There are more than 175 PRCs in Ohio providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical care and material assistance to mothers and families in their communities. Almost all of this help is provided to women and families in need for free due to the donations PRCs receive by the local community. PRCs are *not* for-profit businesses that make money in return for providing a service. They rely fully on the charitable giving by those around them, and donations received are immediately used to provide better service to women in need.

Ohio has long been a leader in defending the rights of the unborn and was one of the first states to pass the Heartbeat Bill in 2019. As the pro-life movement makes the case for life, it is more important than ever to take concrete steps to support women and families facing an unexpected pregnancy. Helping to sustain and expand the work that local PRCs are already doing in their communities only serves to help the communities in which they are involved.

A tax credit is a very efficient and effective way to support these PRCs. It encourages additional community investment and gets businesses involved in helping vulnerable women and families. It also gives individuals a greater opportunity to support PRCs monetarily. By creating a tax credit for donations to PRCs, the state is investing in a network providing high-quality health care to pregnant women. This care supplements other state programs, offsetting the cost of medical services that would otherwise be funded by taxpayers, most likely through increased emergency room and Medicaid usage. According to research by the Charlotte Lozier Institute, PRCs save their communities millions of dollars annually.

Many people working at a PRC either make very little money or are hired purely on a volunteer basis. They also are required, in many cases, to go through an extensive training program just to work as a volunteer receptionist. Their work and care day in and day out shows their

commitment to serving women and families around them and saving the lives of the unborn. A tax credit is the least we can do to support the PRCs in Ohio.

Thank you again, Chair Dolan, for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 159, and I welcome any questions from the Committee.