



**Kinsey Jolliff
The MetroHealth System
SB 292 -Proponent Testimony
Senate Finance Committee
June 25, 2024**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 292.

My name is Kinsey Jolliff and I serve as MetroHealth’s Vice President of Government Relations. MetroHealth is a super safety-net provider located in Cuyahoga County, 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 appreciates the funding included in the bill for our emergency department (ED) refurbishment project. Our ED on main campus has not been updated since it opened over 20 years ago. The main campus Emergency Department currently services over 65,000 visits annually, and many of those visits are the front door for inpatient care at our Level 1 Trauma Center. The patients served come from over 730 communities across Northeastern Ohio and over 75% are enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, Marketplace coverage, or uninsured. We also collaborate with three Ohio medical schools to provide training for the next generation of emergency department physicians.

We are eager to break ground on this work, which will provide essential updates to the functionality of the ED – the overall cost of the project will be north of \$6 million. The capital upgrades will improve clinical workflows and efficiency and will also support infectious disease prevention and energy efficiency. Specifically, the refresh will reimagine our flooring, walls, lighting, plumbing, cabinetry, doors, and restrooms to create a safer and more efficient space for our patients and the public.

We are grateful for the funding in the bill. Any additional funding for the project will allow us to get started on the work sooner. The project is truly shovel ready.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.