

May 7, 2024

Senate General Government Committee  
Ohio State Legislature



Re: Ohio House Bill 114

Dear Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora, Committee Member Gavarone, and Committee Member McColley,

My name is Sarah Hague, and I am the Chief Program Officer at Vote Mama Foundation. I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of the organization in strong support of House Bill 114 sponsored by Representative Humphrey and Representative Seitz.

Childcare obligations are one of the major factors families consider when weighing their decision to run for office. In many states, it costs more to send an infant to childcare than to complete a mortgage payment. This is not an expense working families can take on — especially when campaigning.

**Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working to expand and codify the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare (CFCC) in all 50 states.** Having young children should never deter any parent from considering a run for office. By making this one simple change, we can support young families and their need for safe and affordable care while on the campaign trail.

In 2018, the Federal Election Commission approved federal candidates' option to spend campaign funds on childcare through a unanimous, bipartisan vote. This paved the way for other federal candidates to do so as well.

Since the 2018 ruling, Vote Mama Foundation has found a monumental increase in CFCC - **usage of campaign funds spent on childcare expenses has increased by 662% at the federal level.** Over 68 federal candidates have used their Campaign Funds for Childcare in 90 races – both moms and dads, Democrats and Republicans. The increased usage of Campaign Funds for Childcare expenses since the 2018 FEC ruling shows just how important this resource is for working parents. However, this ruling does not apply to candidates running for state and local office.

As of today, 31 states and the District of Columbia have brought their state statutes in line with federal regulations. States like Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, and West Virginia all allow for candidates to use their campaign dollars on caregiver expenses.

Our research underscores that when candidates can use campaign funds on childcare expenses - they will. Since 2018, CFCC usage has increased by 2,156% at the state & local level. CFCC has been utilized by 87+ state & local candidates in 13+ states. At least \$297,582 was spent on caregiving expenses from 2018 - 2022 by candidates nationwide.

We know this vital resource makes a difference in who can run for office, up and down the ballot, across the country – *regardless of political ideology.*

**Campaign Funds for Childcare is a bipartisan initiative for moms and dads alike. As with any other campaign finance allowance, this bill creates an option for use and is not a**

**mandate - candidates don't have to use campaign funds on caregiving expenses if they don't want to.**



Even better, this common sense solution poses no cost to taxpayers or state governments.

I urge the Ohio Senate General Government Committee to support HB114 and vote it favorably out of committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Hague'.

Sarah Hague  
Chief Program Officer, Vote Mama Foundation