



Good **morning** Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee. My name is Amy Klaben, and I am the co-founder and president of Move To PROSPER. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to request that you support the Governor's and House approved appropriation to Move to PROSPER so that we can further our life-changing mission.

Move to PROSPER is unique and is built as a three-year investment in a family. Our goal is to create the opportunity for both parents and their children to have a pathway to economic independence and self-sufficiency. We provide partial rental support which enables families to live in healthy, quality homes in safe, higher-resourced neighborhoods, which have for example, higher-resourced schools, employment opportunities, and grocery stores. Much more than a housing program, Move To Prosper includes required participation in individual financial and career coaching and monthly programming. This allows for the development of relationships for emotional support and family stability.

The headline outcome for the 10-family pilot program, evaluated by The Ohio State University and concluded in July 2022, is that Move to PROSPER moms raised their incomes by 58% or \$17,000 on average. That allowed graduates to take on market-rate rent without any subsidy when their program ended.

We saw far fewer trips to emergency rooms for children who had been suffering from asthma when they were in unsafe, unhealthy housing. We estimate that just among the 18 children in our pilot, those fewer ER trips alone resulted in estimated healthcare savings of \$75,000 over four years.

Very importantly, the kids are thriving in their new schools. One young boy who had been shuttled to five different schools was quickly brought up to grade level in reading and math after a Move To Prosper team member assisted his mom in working with the new school. Three pilot students tested as gifted, something unrecognized by their previous school, and were put into more challenging classrooms. Most students engaged in extracurricular activities and many benefitted from our partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. The vast majority of parents indicated their children had a good or very good adjustment to their new schools with improved academic outcomes.

We have transitioned from the pilot to an ongoing program beginning with serving our next 100 families in groups of 15 to 20 families twice a year. The first two groups, totaling 31 families, are now in the program. The next group will join in late summer.

Lori Ann Feibel, Board of Directors, Chair

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The Governor and House's recommended budget appropriation of \$2 million, over the biennium, will help us serve up to 100 families. With your support, we can continue to expand our reach and help even more children and their families.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today in favor of the appropriation for Move to PROSPER. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

Amy Klaben
President and CEO, Move to PROSPER

As background, Move to PROSPER was created as an initiative with faculty in the City and Regional Planning program at The Ohio State University with community members and organizations from across Central Ohio. Since August of 2022, Move to PROSPER is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered as Families Flourish, Inc., doing business as Move to PROSPER.

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