

Ohio Senate
Health Committee
House Bill 33
Mandy Wilson, Camper Parent
May 10, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Health Committee. I am Mandy Wilson, a Flying Horse Farms camper mom.

It is an honor to stand before you today to share a small part of our family's story and some of the transformational experiences our family has had at Flying Horse Farms.

A core value at Flying Horse Farms is With Trust Comes Relief. Let me share with you what that means to my family.

We first heard about Flying Horse Farms from a colleague whose son attended the hematology camp session.

We had just adopted our son, Kael at age 11. After living in an orphanage for over 10 years, he was adjusting to life in our family - including over-protective parents, siblings, a new language, and a myriad of doctor appointments. He attended hematology camp just six months after he joined our family - which provided the independence, new experiences, and friendships he desired, while still assuring he took his medications and shots, monitored his sugar and carb intake and adhered to temperature protocols. In fact, it was at camp that he learned to take his shots on his own....."With Trust Comes Relief".

Since then, two of Kael's sisters - Moci & Meilin, who also have beta thalassemia major, have been able to join him at hematology camp. In fact, their 8th birthdays were truly a coming-of-age celebration- as they too then qualified for Flying Horse Farm sleep away camp.

And as a family of seven, we have been able to experience three weekends together at family camp - and their younger brother and sister look forward to attending sibling camp in the future. Even through COVID, Flying Horse Farms found creative and fun ways to make these camps happen.

On behalf of the thousands of other families that have experienced Flying Horse Farms - thank you for supporting camp through your time today. Financial support from the State of Ohio will allow thousands more families across Ohio to have a place for children with serious illnesses to have medically safe, physically safe and social-emotionally safe - and FUN camp experiences.

Thank you.