



February 27, 2023

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing, III  
Chairman, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Ohio State House  
1 Capital Square  
Columbus, Ohio, 43215

Chairman Blessing,

On behalf of the Licking County Health Department (LCHD), I pledge my support for Senate Bill 39, which was sponsored by Sen. Tim Schaffer. This legislation will exempt items used to care for and improve the health of infants and small children in Ohio from sales and use taxes.

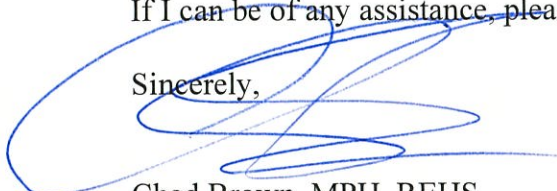
Decreasing infant mortality is a priority throughout our state, and these exemptions will assist parents with purchasing items like cribs and car seats, which play an integral role in keeping infants and small children safe and healthy. Additional items exempted by this bill include diapers, strollers, and baby monitors. Making all of these items easier and less expensive for parents to purchase will benefit both parents and children across Ohio.

LCHD currently provides cribs and car seats to parents in Licking County through grant funds, and the programs have been extremely successful. However, our office cannot serve every parent in need of these items, and SB 39 will reduce financial barriers to purchasing these products.

Our office urges members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee to approve SB 39, and in doing so, promote the health of infants and young children throughout Ohio.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 740-349-6535.

Sincerely,



Chad Brown, MPH, REHS  
Health Commissioner