

Mary Greiner, MD, MS
218 Glenmary Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

March 10, 2025

Dear Members of the House Children and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 7, which seeks to establish categorical eligibility for publicly funded child care for foster and kinship caregivers. As a pediatrician specializing in the health of children in foster care, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that stable, supportive environments have on these children's well-being and development.

Foster and kinship caregivers play an essential role in offering stability, love, and care to children who have experienced trauma and disruption in their lives. However, these caregivers often face significant financial and logistical challenges in meeting the needs of the children in their care. This is especially true for kinship caregivers, who frequently receive children into their homes without warning and may not have adequate resources to support them. By ensuring categorical eligibility for publicly funded child care, House Bill 7 will alleviate some of these burdens and enable caregivers to focus on providing a nurturing environment.

Access to quality child care is not just a matter of convenience; it is a fundamental necessity for the healthy development of children. It allows caregivers to pursue employment, education, and other opportunities that contribute to the overall stability and well-being of the family. Moreover, it ensures that children receive the early education and socialization they need to thrive.

In my practice, I have seen the positive outcomes that result from providing foster and kinship caregivers with the resources they need. Children in these settings often face unique health challenges, and having access to reliable child care can significantly improve their physical and emotional health. House Bill 7 recognizes these unique challenges and offers a practical solution to support caregivers and the children they care for.

By passing this bill, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless children and families across our state. I urge you to support House Bill 7 and help ensure that foster and kinship caregivers have access to the resources they need to provide the best possible care for the children they support.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Greiner".

Mary Greiner, MD, MS