



17 S High Street, Suite 799, Columbus, OH 43215  
614-228-0747 | [www.TheOhioCouncil.org](http://www.TheOhioCouncil.org)  
f t i @theohiocouncil

**Teresa Lampl, LISW-S**  
**House Children and Human Services Committee**  
**Testimony on SB 138**  
**June 3, 2025**

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on SB 138 – a legislative measure forged through compromise, discussion, and the goodwill of all stakeholders.

I am Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (the Ohio Council). The Ohio Council is a statewide trade and advocacy association representing over 170 private businesses that employ nearly 40,000 people and provide services to approximately 2.5 million Ohioans from all walks of life. Our members are nationally accredited and state certified organizations that strive to offer high-quality prevention, mental health, substance use treatment, crisis intervention, and recovery services in all corners of the state. And importantly we partner and contract with the various county ADAMHS Boards to deliver these lifesaving services and supports.

I must start by offering my great appreciation to both Senator Johnson and former Senator Sykes for the sponsorship of this legislation – and Senator Landis for his steady leadership in the Senate Community Revitalization Committee that helped guide us to this point. I appreciate this committee and other members of the House for your patience, which allowed us the space and time to deliberate, discuss, and negotiate the compromise language that is reflected in SB 138. I also want to thank the Ohio Association for County Behavioral Health Authorities, the Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers, and other stakeholders that have worked to reach consensus on this legislation. It truly was a deliberative and thoughtful process.

The updates made in this bill that address the Board and Provider contracting process; audit and investigation guidance, and transition of care protections for patients in need of behavioral health services have been in the works over many years. Indeed, I am pleased to finally stand before you today and say that the Ohio Council supports these provisions. We also are strong proponents of including the provision that establishes criminal sanctions for those entities operating recovery housing residences without the proper certification or accreditation. In certain areas of the state, some operators are deliberately ignoring the recently implemented recovery housing standards, damaging the reputation of the entire recovery housing industry. Establishing criminal sanctions will equip law enforcement and local and state regulators with the tools to hold these violators accountable.

In conclusion, the Ohio Council strongly supports SB 138 and encourages the committee to advance this measure forward through the legislative process. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.