



Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee

Proponent Testimony on SB 138

Liz Henrich, CEO

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

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Chairwoman White, Vice-Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 138. My name is Liz Henrich, and I am the CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. We represent Ohio's local Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards.

Ohio's 50 Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards, are the local governmental authority covering all 88 counties, providing community members with access to a statutorily defined continuum of care, inclusive of prevention, treatment, and recovery supports, in communities throughout the state.

Local ADAMH Boards are charged with establishing a unified system of prevention, treatment, and community supports for individuals impacted by mental illness and/or addiction. Boards, through contracts with community provider agencies, encourage and foster the development of high-quality, cost effective, and comprehensive services and supports. Local Boards are uniquely positioned to rapidly identify and effectively respond to evolving community needs, while ensuring the accountable use of public funds.

Today, I'm pleased to stand before you and offer our support for SB 138. The language before you in this bill is the result of a great deal of work we undertook with our partners at the Ohio Council and the Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers to develop agreed upon language that serves to modernize the business of community behavioral health in Ohio.

Within this bill you will find statutory changes that:

- Modernize contracting language by removing the confusing and sometimes contentious language around the contract renewal process and requiring a shorter timeframe for providing notice of a contract's non-renewal;
- Authorize Boards to utilize a competitive procurement process when determined to be in the best interest of the Board while requiring certain guardrails to be included in the process;
- Promote collaboration between OhioMHAS, ADAMH Boards, and stakeholders to develop a data sharing and integration plan with the goal of sharing data to improve programs and ensure essential services and supports are available to persons seeking or receiving services; and

- Clarify provider audit requirements and responsibilities for OhioMHAS and ADAMH Boards.
- Establish criminal penalties for operating a recovery housing residence without certification.

We are grateful to Senator Johnson for his dedication to this issue and his ongoing support for the work of ADAMH Boards and community mental health and addiction service agencies throughout Ohio.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with OhioMHAS, providers, family members, and other stakeholders to continue collaborating to ensure that all Ohioans have access to a complete continuum of care from prevention through recovery supports.

I want to thank you all for your ongoing focus on helping Ohioans impacted by mental illness and addiction. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.