



Ohio Children's Alliance

Leading change for child and family service providers

June 3, 2025

Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee

Proponent Testimony: SB 138

Ohio Children's Alliance Proponent Testimony on SB 138

Chair White Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 138.

My name is Kate Rossman and I am the Policy Manager at the Ohio Children's Alliance. For over 50 years, this statewide nonprofit advocacy organization has advanced the interests of community-based child and family providers serving every corner of Ohio. Our network of 90 behavioral health and child welfare organizations are key partners in addressing issues facing young people in our state, including their local ADAMH boards.

First, we would like to express our appreciation to Vice Chair Johnson for his continued leadership on this issue, and for championing this legislation both in the current General Assembly and previously through Senate Bill 105. SB 138 represents the result of meaningful collaboration and compromise between ADAMH boards and the community-based providers they partner with to deliver critical behavioral health services. We're especially grateful to Senator Johnson and former Senator Sykes for bringing providers and boards together to craft a balanced and forward-looking proposal in the 135th General Assembly.

The version of SB 138 currently before this Committee lays a more stable and equitable foundation for providers and boards to build and sustain strong local partnerships.

One key provision we strongly support is the inclusion of a required **transition of care period** in Board-provider contracts. Allowing for a minimum 60-day window to coordinate continuity of care ensures that individuals receiving behavioral health services are not left behind due to changes in business arrangements. This provision keeps the focus of contracting where it belongs: maintaining uninterrupted care for community members in need.

We also support several other important improvements to contracting procedures including:

- **The inclusion of an appeal option** when a contract is terminated early provides a necessary safeguard. This mechanism will allow the terminated provider to present their case to the deciding party's board, ensuring fairness in the process.
- **Limiting the scope of provider cost reviews** to only those elements specific to contracted services helps maintain provider privacy while keeping the discussion focused on the care being delivered.
- **Requiring ADAMH boards to comply with early termination or non-renewal notice provisions** even during competitive selection ensures that transitions occur responsibly.

educate | advocate | innovate | connect



Ohio Children's Alliance

Leading change for child and family service providers

Finally, we appreciate the bill's clarification of **OhioMHAS' role in coordinating data sharing**. We recognize the importance of ADAMH boards having access to meaningful data related to the services they fund and support the use of a collaborative framework that includes input from both boards and providers. As with this bill, policies created through collaboration will lead to smarter, more sustainable outcomes.

Chair White Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 138. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Kate Rossman
Policy Manager
Ohio Children's Alliance
kate.rossman@ohiochildrensalliance.org

educate | advocate | innovate | connect