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69th House District

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Kevin D. Miller
State Representative

To: Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee
From: Representative Kevin Miller
Date: November 4th, 2025

House Bill 532 Sponsor Testimony

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services committee, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 532.

House Bill 532 requires County Child Protective Service Agencies to take temporary custody of a **non-resident child** from a law enforcement agency when the child cannot be safely released to a parent or guardian due to the child residing outside of the county. Common circumstances of this would be following an arrest, abandonment, run-away, neglect, or unsafe conditions.

Under current law, Child Protective Services will only respond and take custody of **resident children** from law enforcement; however, if a child is a **non-resident**, they will not respond nor take possession of the child.

This bill simply treats all children the same regardless of where they reside. For example, an individual from Monroe County is arrested in Licking County with their child. This legislation would require that Licking County Child Protective Services take temporary custody of the child and make arraignments with family members or the child's home county agency (Monroe) to transfer custody.

This is a huge problem for already short-staffed police departments who are burdened with taking care of children for extended periods of time, when in reality, it is not the job of law enforcement. This is precisely the job responsibility of our child welfare professionals at CPS.

House Bill 532 will guarantee that every child taken into custody in an emergency situation has an agency immediately accountable for their care and safety regardless of where the child resides. Additionally, it will support our law enforcement agencies by freeing up valuable limited resources to concentrate on the important mission essential tasks.

In closing, HB532 ensures that when a child cannot return home safely, they are immediately placed in the care of professionals trained to protect and support them while our law enforcement officers can return to our streets and neighborhoods to keep us safe.

Thank you, Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the committee for allowing me to present testimony and I welcome any questions you may have.