



Chairwoman White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee:

SAS appreciates the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 647. For nearly fifty years, SAS has served as a global leader in advanced analytics and fraud, waste, and abuse solutions for government agencies. We thank Representatives Phil Plummer and Tom Young for their leadership in advancing this legislation to strengthen the oversight and integrity of Ohio's publicly funded childcare program.

HB 647 recognizes that detection is only the first step in combating fraud; successful prosecution is the ultimate goal. The bill's provision empowering the Attorney General to investigate and pursue criminal or civil violations is critical to ensuring accountability. To fully achieve this intent, the State must implement tools that allow seamless collaboration between the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Attorney General's Office.

A unified approach requires integrated data sharing between agencies to reveal a complete view of a provider's history, associated individuals, and any emerging patterns of misconduct. It also requires strong case management and defensible audit trails, so that every investigative action is documented in a clear, consistent, and court-ready manner. In addition, complex fraud cases benefit greatly from visual tools—such as network diagrams and relationship maps—that help illustrate provider connections and suspicious activity in a way that is accessible and admissible in judicial proceedings.

To ensure the State is not relying solely on basic rules-based systems, we recommend the use of hybrid analytics solutions. These combine network analysis to uncover hidden relationships, predictive modeling to identify improper activity before funds are disbursed, and full lifecycle tracking that follows each case from an initial alert through investigation and potential prosecution. Such tools help the State shift from reactive recovery efforts toward more proactive prevention.

SAS stands ready to support the Committee and provide additional information related to known fraud schemes and the role advanced analytics can play in strengthening program integrity. Ensuring that HB 647 reflects the need for modern, investigative-focused technology will allow Ohio to establish a national standard for protecting families and safeguarding taxpayer resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for the Committee's record.

Sincerely,

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