Ohio Bleeding
Disorders Council
Advocacy is in our blood

Interested Party Testimony- House Finance Committee
HB 96 — FY26-27 State Operating Budget
March 13, 2025

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee — Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the FY26-27 State Operating Budget.

My name is Randi Clites and I am the State Policy Director for the Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council.

As you consider the operating budget, we ask you to please expand eligibility for the **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** by extending the age limit by one year beginning July 1, 2025, increasing the maximum age of participants from 25 to 26 and add $500,000 in FY26 to the program (Ohio Department of Health - GRF appropriation item 440505). This is the third and final request for expanding the program to mirror the time in which young adults have coverage on their parents' health insurance. It has been reported to OBDC that the expansion has provided additional coverage for up to 300 young adults in each covered year.

Formerly known as the Children with Medical Handicaps, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is a health care program in the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) that links individuals with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps individuals and their families by providing a financial safety net for high out of pocket costs related to their covered medical condition or medically necessary services not covered by their primary insurance. This expansion has also assisted the Treatment Program in attracting more qualified adult providers to become CMH providers to support a smoother transition from Children's Hospital's to the Adult Provider care centers. **OBDC supports continued funding and expansion of the treatment program up to age 26 to support our young adults.**

I would like to share a bit about the bleeding disorders community so you can understand why this is so important. Approximately 4,000 Ohioans have a bleeding disorder. 1,300 of those 4,000 have a form of hemophilia, a genetic bleeding disorder that prevents blood from properly clotting. Unless expertly treated, this condition can result in excessive bleeding that threatens life and limb. Most commonly bleeding occurs within joints, and this leads to crippling arthritis at young ages. **There is no cure for hemophilia** and individuals affected by it need lifelong infusions of clotting therapies, injectional mimetics or re-balancing agents which, on average, can cost $250,000-500,000 per year. The National Institute of Health found that studies of economic burden on people with bleeding disorder often underestimate the total burden due to the difficulty of defining indirect costs.

Von Willebrand disease is another lifelong bleeding disorder and is due to insufficiency or dysfunction of a protein that helps small blood cells (platelets) stick together properly. When platelets cannot stick together, the clotting process is unable to take place, and a person can have uncontrolled bleeding. Symptoms include excessive bruising, nosebleeds, heavy menstrual bleeding, bleeding with surgeries, procedures, and childbirth. **The cost of care can range anywhere from $40,000 to $150,000, not including indirect costs.**

I encourage you to support our amendment to please expand eligibility for the **Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** program by extending the age limit by one year beginning July 1, 2025, increasing the maximum age of participants from 25 to 26 and adding $500,000 in FY26 to the program.

Sincerely,
Randi Clites
State Policy Director
Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council