



May 6th, 2025

Ohio House Health Committee
HB 141

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deter, Ranking Member Somani and Members of the Health Committee:

I would first like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 141 and would like to thank Representatives Baker and Abrams for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

As President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), I offer **OPRA's support for H.B. 141**. OPRA is a state-wide trade association representing nearly 200 private organizations who provide Medicaid funded long-term services and supports to over 32,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Most OPRA members support adults with I/DD, a few of our members support children with I/DD, specifically those with complex medical and nursing oversight needs in childcare settings.

While only a few of our members serve the population of children who will benefit from the creation of prescribed pediatric extended care centers (PPEC), we know the need for this kind of service in Ohio is great. As the House Families and Aging Committee heard testimony from the families advocating for this bill in the 135th General Assembly, this kind of service is life changing for young families. A few ways PPEC supports young families with complex medical include, but are not limited to:

1. **Reduced Need for Hospitalizations:** PPEC services can help prevent or reduce hospitalizations, as they provide a safe and controlled environment where children receive the medical care they need, according to [Spark Pediatrics](#).
2. **Workforce Participation:** By providing reliable care, PPECs allow families to maintain employment and income, which can be crucial for financial stability.
3. **LTSS Reduction:** While PPECs primarily focus on specialized pediatric care, they can also help reduce the need for long-term services and supports by addressing the specific medical needs of children and preventing the need for long-term care placements.

Under the current system, it can be very difficult for childcare providers or providers of I/DD services to sustain these kinds of services. Providers must cobble together various subsidy funds and their own private fundraising to ensure they can provide the level of care that children with complex medical needs require. This bill will provide a pathway toward a more streamlined and sustainable funding mechanism for providers which should make childcare more accessible to children with complex medical needs.

OPRA offers our full support of this bill. However, we want to note that success of PPEC may take a while to be fully realized. Since so few childcare centers offer this kind of specialty care so they will need time to get the right, high-quality staff in place in the centers. We also note the success of PPEC will depend on the rate set for the service by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. If providers are not able to cover at least most of the cost of this care, the program will offer little value to the families who desperately need it. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the General Assembly towards the full creation and implementation of the PPEC program!

Thank you for accepting our testimony. For additional questions, I can be reached at pmoore@opra.org or 614-224-6772.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Moore".

Peter Moore
President and CEO
Ohio Provider Resource Association