



House Health Committee
House Bill 141
Kari Jones, President & CEO
ElevateDD
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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 141.

My name is Kari Jones, and I am the President & CEO at ElevateDD. ElevateDD is a statewide nonprofit organization that serves thousands of people with developmental disabilities and their families, and serves as a trusted source for advocacy, access, and support for the developmental disability community. Today, I speak in support of House Bill 141, a bipartisan initiative introduced by Representatives Rachel Baker and Cindy Abrams. This bill seeks to establish Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) centers, providing support to children with complex medical needs and their families. In ElevateDD's 2023 statewide survey* of families whose children have developmental disabilities:

- More than 60% of caregivers indicated that child care providers had communicated to them that they could not provide child care due to factors related to their child's developmental disability. Specifically, providers were most likely to cite behavioral support, followed by medical needs, diapering/toileting, and physical accommodations.
- 56% of caregiver respondents stated that their inability to find child care significantly or very significantly impacted their ability to work.
- Other themes of the survey included feeling financially strained, career interruptions, increased dependence on family members that strains relationships, and a general lack of child care options which negatively impacts the child's learning and development opportunities.

Families who will benefit from PPEC centers have been operating in crisis for far too long. These centers are essential to addressing a significant care gap for children with complex medical needs, helping families access reliable, affordable support that promotes the family's overall quality of life.

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*ElevateDD. (2023). Child Care & Developmental Disabilities: Elevating the Voices of Ohio Families.

