

**Proponent Testimony**  
**House Bill 141**  
**House Health Committee**  
**May 7, 2025**

Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani and Members of the Committee, my name is David Glazer, MD. I am writing in support of House Bill 141.

I am a physician at the Cincinnati VAMC who cares for veterans that have sustained traumatic brain injury and other traumatic insults that result in multiple physical and cognitive impairments. But I write not as a physician but as a medically informed father to Riva.

Riva is two years old. Riva has STXBP1 Encephalopathy, a rare epilepsy syndrome that also causes developmental delay. She requires complete assistance for activities such as sitting and feeding. She does not communicate in the way a normally developing two-year-old develops. She does not crawl. She does not walk.

Prior to her birth, my wife and I researched daycares and found one that we trusted to be able to care for her. Following Riva's birth and diagnosis, we informed the daycare of Riva's condition. The daycare then denied her because the staff did not feel comfortable taking on the needs of Riva. When Riva's seizures are controlled, her biggest needs are someone to physically move her, sit her up appropriately, feed her, and be in tune with her needs that she cannot more formally verbalize. When Riva is ill whether it is from uncontrolled seizures or respiratory illness, Riva may need extra care such as tube feeding, breathing treatments, and medication administration.

With the denial of the daycare that was going to be used, we began making calls to other daycare facilities to see if there would be one that would be willing to care for Riva.

After about 50 phone calls, we did indeed find a licensed home daycare that was willing to care for Riva. This daycare has been beyond amazing and has become part of Riva's extended family. In fact, the director has become so inspired by Riva, that the director is in the process of creating a daycare that will help support children with special needs.

Yet as we know, this is rare. Today I am writing in support of the establishment of a PPEC program. A PPEC program would create access to daycare for children with special needs and other complex medical needs. It would create equity for children. It would say that Ohio stands for all its citizens, not just those that are "able-bodied and fall within the standard developmental patterns." A PPEC program allows parents to continue working outside the home, which in turn enables all the citizens of Ohio to contribute in the best

possible way to the state and its citizens. A PPEC would reassure parents that the child's medical needs are properly and safely met. A PPEC would help foster the development of a child's function to the child's unique potential.

Thank you for your consideration of this.