



Testimony to the Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee

House Bill 162- June 11, 2025

Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeters, Ranking Member Somani & members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Meredith Friedhoff, and I am a co-chair of Ohio Women Lead Right (OWLR), an organization dedicated to supporting efforts including parental rights. On behalf of OWLR, I am here to express strong support for House Bill 162, the "My Child-My Chart Act," which empowers parents by granting them access to their children's medical records.

Parents should be their child's first and most important teacher, and are responsible for their well-being, education, and moral upbringing. It is imperative that parents have the necessary information to make informed decisions regarding their health and education. House Bill 162 does just this by requiring health care providers ensure that a minor's parent or guardian has access to the electronic health records of the minor to the fullest extent permitted under federal and state law. This is a common sense fix to a policy that a handful of healthcare providers have imposed, restricting parents of their access to their minor children's online medical records.

This legislation does have considerations for specific instances to comply with current federal law. This provision requires health care providers to annually inform each minor's parent or

guardian of circumstances in which a minor may receive health care without parent or guardian consent and that records of such care may not be disclosed to the parent or guardian without the minor's authorization. This is a fair and well-balanced approach, as parents would still be informed of the select information they may not have access to and why—there will be no intentional division or unknown secrecy.

Overall, this legislation is a much-needed approach to creating responsible and consistent healthcare policy in regards to minor EMRs. Ohio Women Lead Right is a strong advocate to keep parents engaged and empowered in decisions and records involving their minor children. It is beyond disappointing that legislation has to be introduced to fix egregious oversteps from the medical community, but we applaud Representative Click for recognizing this injustice and having the courage to fight it. We urge your support for House Bill 162 and ask for swift action from this committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.