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**Teresa Lampl, LISW-S**  
**Senate Addictions and Community Revitalization Committee**  
**Proponent Testimony on SB 138**  
**April 9, 2025**

Chair Landis, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate Addictions and Community Revitalization Committee thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on SB 138 – a legislative measure forged through compromise, discussion, and good will by many interested parties.

I am Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (the Ohio Council). The Ohio Council is a statewide trade and advocacy association representing over 170 private businesses that employ nearly 40,000 people and provide services to approximately 2.5 million Ohioans from all walks of life. Our members are nationally accredited and state certified organizations that strive to offer high-quality prevention, mental health, substance use treatment, crisis intervention, and recovery services in all corners of the state. And importantly we partner and contract with the various county ADAMHS Boards to deliver these lifesaving services and supports.

I must start by offering my great appreciation to both Senator Johnson, former Senator Sykes, and Chair Landis for your steady leadership that helped guide us to this point – and for your patience, which allowed us the space and time to deliberate, discuss, and negotiate the compromise language that is reflected in SB 138. I also want to thank the Ohio Association for County Behavioral Health Authorities, the Ohio Addiction Recovery Providers, and other stakeholders that have worked to reach consensus on this legislation. It truly was a deliberative and thoughtful process.

The updates made in this bill that address the Board and Provider contracting process; audit and investigation guidance, and transition of care protections for patients in need of behavioral health services have been in the works over many years. And I am very pleased to finally stand before you today and say that the Ohio Council supports these provisions. We also are strong proponents of including the provision that establishes criminal sanctions for those entities operating recovery housing residences without the proper certification or accreditation. In certain areas of the state, some operators are deliberately ignoring the recently implemented recovery housing standards, damaging the reputation of the entire recovery housing industry. Establishing criminal sanctions will equip law enforcement and regulators with the tools to hold these violators accountable.

So in conclusion, the Ohio Council strongly supports SB 138 and encourages the committee to advance this measure forward through the legislative process. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.