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Memorandum to the Senate Education Committee

From: The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

Subj: Proponent Statement in Support of SB 7

Date: February 11, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of SB 7 – legislation that would enhance and expand prevention services and build resiliency amongst Ohio’s students.

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers is a statewide trade and advocacy organization that represents over 170 private businesses that deliver prevention, mental health and addiction treatment, crisis, and recovery services in communities throughout Ohio. We applaud the sponsor of this important legislation – Senator Terry Johnson – for his strong leadership, keen insight, and focused efforts to promote and enhance the delivery of substance use prevention services in Ohio’s schools.

Indeed, SB 7 is sound policy that would appear to complement and support Governor DeWine’s efforts to invest and support children and adolescents physical and mental wellbeing so that they can reach their full potential. As the members of this committee understand, students today must navigate a challenging social and learning environment, full of pressures associated with harmful substances, gambling, and social media – SB 7 and its focus on “upstream” prevention is a step in the right direction.

Accordingly, the Ohio Council strongly supports SB 7 and encourages this committee to advance this measure forward through the legislative process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer the Ohio Council’s perspective on SB 7. If the committee has any questions or would like to discuss this matter in greater detail, please contact Teresa Lampl at lampl@theohiocouncil.org.