



**Ohio Children's Hospital Association**  
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

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**Proponent Testimony before Ohio Senate General Government Committee**  
**Senate Bill 86**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Ohio Senate General Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in favor of Senate Bill 86. I serve as the President & CEO of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association (OCHA) and also have the privilege of serving as President to the Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS).

OCHA represents the world's best statewide network of children's hospitals – Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's, Dayton Children's, Nationwide Children's Hospital, UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital. Several of our institutions are ranked among U.S. News & World Report's best children's hospitals, and all our members are ranked best in class in the nation in various aspects of pediatric care. Ohio is the only state in the nation with a flagship children's hospital within a two-hour drive of every family, including our most rural parts of the state.

SPS represents 150 children's hospitals working together to help each individual hospital make progress on a journey to zero harm. SPS is the only such effort in the nation that is specifically focused on improving pediatric and employee safety. This mission requires an all teach, all learn commitment alongside partnering with families and front-line staff. Since 2012, our national effort has saved 27,509 children from serious harm and led to an estimated savings of \$585.9 million, with a consistent upward trend of harm prevented every month.

Our hospitals have seen a steady increase in both accidental and intentional pediatric cannabis ingestion. Young children under the age of six are most at risk from access to these edible products, with the potential for significant toxicity. A national study showed young children under six had dramatically more ingestions from edible cannabis, going from 207 reported incidents in 2017 to 3054 in 2021. This number continues to rise, with our hospitals seeing the impact firsthand in our emergency rooms and intensive care units.

Delta-8 THC is a dangerous product that currently has zero regulation in the State of Ohio. Not only are young children able to access these products at home, but older youth can purchase them directly. These products are banned in 17 states and severely restricted in 7 more. Having just come to market in 2018, an estimated 11% of high school students already self-report using Delta-8 THC. Children's hospitals regularly treat youth with adverse health effects including breathing problems, seizures, and heart issues. We thank Senators Huffman and Wilkin for introducing this important legislation and urge the committee to support SB 86.