

Sara Laughlin

Family Action Network Parent Advocate

May 14th, 2025

Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee Chairperson Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

My name is Sara Laughlin, and I am a parent from Miami County. I am here today to urge you to restore the Governor's budget proposal, which included critical investments for a child tax credit.

As someone who is facing several struggles. We have Medicaid, but it's difficult to find providers who accept our insurance, and many are booked out for months. My car is broken down and needs costly repairs, but as a self-employed single parent, I can't afford a loan to fix it or buy a new one. Additionally, I don't qualify for typical housing; renting a 3-bedroom home in our town requires an income that's not realistic for a single-income household. During the summer, when my oldest is out of school, it's hard to work many hours because I don't always have childcare. Next year, with two younger children, it will be even harder and more expensive. These everyday challenges make it incredibly difficult to get ahead, despite my best efforts. Groundwork Ohio has outlined key priorities that will strengthen our state's early childhood system, including:

- Economic Stability: RESTORE the proposed refundable Child Tax Credit of up to \$1,000 per child under age 7.

These investments will not only help children thrive but also boost Ohio's workforce and economy. I urge you to fully fund these initiatives to ensure every child gets the best start in life. Thank you for your time and commitment to Ohio's children and families. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Sara Laughlin