



Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton

1323 West 3rd Street Dayton, Ohio 45402-6714

www.communityhealthdayton.org

Doing Business As:

Alex Central Health Center
5 South Alex Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Chambersburg Health Center
6255 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424

Charles Drew Health Center
1323 West 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Corwin Nixon Health Center
2351 Stanley Avenue
Dayton, OH 45404

East Dayton Health Center
2132 East 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45403

East Dayton Dental Center
2132 East 3rd Street
Dayton, OH 45403

Mobile Health Unit
4290 N. James H. McGee Blvd
Dayton, OH 45417

Shaun'ta Whitehead, MHA
Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton
Senate Health Committee
Testimony on Senate Bill 198
October 15, 2025

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 198, the Ohio 340B Pharmacy Access Act. My name is Shaun'ta Whitehead, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton, a federally qualified health center also known as a Community Health Center (CHC).

Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton is on the front lines of care in Montgomery County. We provide medical, dental, and behavioral health services to thousands of patients (14,000) — many of whom are uninsured, underinsured, or living in poverty- across six clinic locations. The demand is rising, but our capacity is constrained by funding challenges.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to deliver comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable healthcare to every Ohioan—especially those in underserved communities. A critical tool that enables us to fulfill this mission is the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B program is not just a policy—it is a foundational support system for Community Health Centers across our state. It allows us to reinvest savings into vital services that would otherwise be out of reach for many patients. I respectfully refer to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers' (OACHC) testimony for a full overview of the program's structure and history. Today I want to focus on how 340B directly impacts Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton and the people we serve.

When Congress created the 340B program, they made their intent clear: to allow safety-net providers to "stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services." Community Health Centers like ours were designed to do exactly that. At Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton, we use 340B savings to supporting sliding fee discounts, enhancing chronic care management, and providing mobile health services to the local public schools.

Unfortunately, the sustainability of this essential program is now at risk. Since 2020, more than 35 drug manufacturers have imposed unilateral restrictions on the 340B program—ranging from refusing to ship medications to contract pharmacies to forcing health centers like ours to designate only a single pharmacy for all dispensing, regardless of geography or patient need.

For example, at Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton, we've faced a specific impact, such as having to choose just one pharmacy for all sites across the entire Montgomery County, resulting in patient access barriers. This is a significant impact compounded with many big box pharmacies closing in the area creating a pharmacy desert. These restrictions harm our ability to serve patients efficiently and comprehensively. Patients may now be required to travel significant distances to access medications—or worse, go without. This undermines both the clinical effectiveness of treatment and care our patients deserve.

These attacks not only disrupt care—they jeopardize the financial viability of Community Health Centers. At Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton we have had to close one of our locations, lay off staff, and evaluate the sustainability of wrap around services in order to prioritize day-to-day operations.

SB 198 is a concise, targeted bill that addresses this issue head-on. It prohibits manufacturers from limiting access to necessary medications simply because the provider is a 340B grantee. In doing so, it safeguards access to care for all Ohioans across urban, rural, Appalachia, and medically underserved areas.

This legislation closes dangerous loopholes and reaffirms the original intent of the 340B program. Though narrowly focused, SB 198 will have a wide-reaching and lasting positive impact on patients, communities, and the overall health of our state.