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October 2, 2015

The Honorable Robert C. Sprague
77 S. High St, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

RE: Interested Party HB 230

Dear Representative Sprague,

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers is a trade and advocacy organization representing over 150, private, nonprofit organizations that provide addiction prevention and treatment, mental health treatment, and family services to over 600,000 Ohioans annually. Our members employ professionals certified by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDPB) and are interested in policies related to the operations of this board and the requirements for those professionals under its authority.

The changes proposed in HB 230 will modernize Ohio statute to reflect national practices with the certification of professionals specializing in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. As the demand for services provided by these professionals grows in the face of Ohio's opiate epidemic, it is important that the OCPB have the structure and authority needed to be responsive to the ongoing workforce requirements in Ohio in a way that grows and evolves with emerging research and national standards. The proposed legislation positions them well for this task.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please let us know if we can provide any further information at this time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Criss".

Lori Criss, MSW, LSW
Associate Director