



Representative Click  
Representative Pavliga

Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

House Bill 173 Sponsor Testimony

March 18, 2021

Chairwomen Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 173. This bill will reinstate the Ohio Family Stability Commission with some changes. The Ohio Family Stability Commission was originally proposed and passed in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly as Senate Bill 30. The commission's goals at the time are similar to those of the new version. In the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly this committee was up to sunset, we believe that the parameters to join as a member of that committee were too cumbersome.

The goals of the Ohio Family Stability Commission are to examine the family structure as a whole and tackle issues Ohio's families face today. The goals of this commission are to combat issues such as substance abuse, child abuse, and societal issues that impact the family. The Ohio Family Stability Commission will look at the impact of these issues and recommend legislation to the General Assembly.



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Previously, the Ohio Family Stability Commission had 25 members with 13 appointees from the Governor. These appointees had specific requirements attached to them. This new Ohio Family Commission has 13 members with 3 to 5 appointees from the Governor. We have lessened the stringent requirements for the Governor's appointee. Also, private entities can appoint a member to sit on this commission but they do not have a vote on the commission.

Family stability makes it easier to succeed in school and in your career. As a state we want to strongly encourage stable families. Stability gives your life structure and a sense of control. When that is disrupted it can create discourse in one's life. Not only does this have an emotional and mental impact, it also has an economic impact on our state.

Thank you to Chairwomen Manchester and the members of the committee for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 173. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.