November 27, 2017

Chairman Timothy Ginter

Ranking Member Janine Boyd

Community and Family Advancement Committee

Re: House Bill 366

Hello Representatives Ginter and Boyd:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Clermont County Child Support Enforcement Agency and the child support professionals who impact the lives of thousands of families in this area. This is not a request for more funding this time, but instead a fervent request that you support House Bill 366 which would make sweeping changes to the child support guidelines; guidelines that use economic figures that are more than 30 years old.

I have worked in child support for almost 24 years, and in that time period, there have been no changes to the economic tables that dictate the amount of child support non-custodial parents must pay. In fact, we are one of only three states in the nation to still use such outdated information. In addition, the income tables for the lower income payors do not provide an adequate self-sufficiency reserve, leaving our agency with the impossible task of trying to collect consistent child support for the neediest children in our community.

Other changes being recommended include modifying the child support guidelines from a statutory format to a rule, thus allowing future changes to the guidelines to be made by the Department of Job and Family Services, instead of the legislature. It may be appealing to you to know that is one issue you will not have to visit again once it is no longer under statute.

Our support of this bill is strong and it contains several other provisions which we believe will make a substantial impact on both those who pay and receive child support. I would be more than happy to speak with you regarding any questions or concerns you have surrounding House Bill 366. Thank you so very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Theresa Bechtel Ellison

Lead Attorney, Clermont County Child Support Enforcement