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Subject: CURE Bill Statement

According to Social Security Administration, about 300,000 Ohioans received disability payment in 2015.¹ Seventy percent of the recipients are between 18-64 years of age, the income-generating age bracket.² At an average disability payment of \$530-540 per month³, this expense totals approximately \$1.9 billion per year.

What happens to our economy if we could have a cure that puts one-third of these 300,000 Ohioans back into the work force?

At \$48k per year⁴, our state GDP will increase by almost \$5 billion per year, the size of an AK Steel. At the same time, we will also save \$640 million a year or \$3.2 billion over 5 years, in disability payment.

Rep. Jim Butler proposes that we use the savings in disability payments toward a 5-year prize for a cure. This is an attractive financial incentive to any institution, not to mention the recognition. Besides, Rep. Butler's proposal does not create a tax burden on the public.

Before I conclude, I would like to share with you the story of a 51-years old gentleman. Let me call him Bill. Bill was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease, called rheumatoid arthritis, at the age of 25. Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disorder that affects the whole body, not just the joints. He has been on Social Security Disability for 26 years because the pain is so persistent that he has not been able to hold on to a job.

If there were a cure, he would have kept his job. Assuming \$45k a year salary for 26 years⁵, his cumulative gross pay would have topped \$1million. Unfortunately, rheumatoid arthritis robbed him his career. Now, his son, who is 25, is showing early signs of rheumatoid arthritis.

With your support of Rep. Butler's CURE initiative, we can end this downward spiral that sucks the American dream out of our citizens and productivity out of our economy. It is do-able. Thank you.

¹ "SSI Recipients by State & County, 2016", SSA Publication No. 13-11976, Social Security Administration, Sept. 2017, p.1.

² *Ibid.*

³ "Social Security Disability: Ohio Benefits and Eligibility", DGMS Law, Jan 14, 2015.

⁴ "Gross Domestic Products from Ohio 2016", Ohio Research Office, U.S. Census Bureau, Sept 2017.

⁵ "BEA Per Capita Income 2016", Ohio Research Office, U.S. Census Bureau, May 2017.