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**State Representative Erica C. Crawley**

**Ohio House District 26**

**House Bill 274 Sponsor Testimony (as prepared)**

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 274.

Since 1974, the Ronald McDonald House Charities have done truly transformative work in our state and across the country to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families[[1]](#footnote-1). Through RMHC’s Houses, Family Rooms, and Care Mobiles, the organization provides families with a worry-free place to stay near their child’s hospital, a place to rest at the hospital, and access to quality health care where it’s needed most.

Ohio’s eight chapters – Central Ohio, Cleveland, the Miami Valley, the greater Northeast Ohio area, Akron, the greater Cincinnati area, Northwest Ohio, and the Mahoning Valley – are a part of that effort to keep families together and ease their burden in these trying times. These chapters support six houses, seven family rooms, and two care mobiles throughout the state in partnership with hospitals like the Cleveland Clinic, Riverside Methodist Hospital, Dayton Children’s Hospital, Miami Valley Hospital, and more.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Right here in Columbus (and in my district!), RMHC of Central Ohio is making a huge difference. Currently, the Columbus Ronald McDonald House serves more than 4,500 families each year by providing over 82,000 nights and is currently the largest such charity in the world with nearly 137 rooms in 120,000 sq. ft.[[3]](#footnote-3) In 2017 alone, they provided over 180,000 meals to families of hospitalized children.

This legislation would create a specialty license plate for RMHC with a corresponding license plate contribution fund. Each time someone purchases the RMHC plates, a $25 contribution would be collected and paid to the Central Ohio chapter, which would then distribute the contribution to the RMHC chapter in whose area the contributor lives. This is a simple yet meaningful way to give back directly to your local chapter and support its mission.

HB 274 is a tremendous opportunity to create an additional pathway for Ohioans to support this wonderful organization and the work it does across our state, each and every day. Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and please join me in supporting our Ronald McDonald House Charities chapters in Ohio.

1. http://rmhc-centralohio.org/who-we-are/mission/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.rmhc.org/chapter-search?country=United+States&state=Ohio [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://rmhc-centralohio.org/who-we-are/stats-facts/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)