CHRISTIE ANGEL

OHIO COUNCIL OF YWCAs

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sub. H.B. 166 – Proponent Testimony

June 14, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Christie Angel, President and CEO of YWCA of Columbus and a member of the Ohio Council of YWCAs. Our Council is made up of the 14 YWCA chapters across the State, and we are committed to our goals of eliminating racism and empowering women.

I want to begin by thanking this Committee for including in Sub. H.B. 166 the appropriation of $500,000 per fiscal year through TANF Block Grant funds to support programs that prevent gender based violence, support victims of gender based violence, provide trauma-informed support for survivors, and support educational opportunities for at-risk youth. This funding will help the YWs to meet the growing demands for our services. We will be in a position to expand our emergency shelters, crisis hotline support and non-residential services. We also will be able to provide more wraparound services that address gender-based violence, including trauma-informed support for survivors such as counseling, case management, and substance abuse services. Finally, we provide a variety of educational opportunities for youth as part of our wraparound services. A significant percentage of people who will benefit from these increased services are people who are often marginalized because of the race, disability or challenges they face because of the trauma they have endured.

Ninety-One women live in YWCA Columbus’ downtown 4th Street building. The women who live with us were once homeless, but now live in our supportive housing working hard everyday to rebuild their independence, trust in others and find community. We will use the additional resources provided in Sub. H.B. 166 to provide more trauma informed and therapeutic practices to help our residents reach their full potential so that they can move beyond the stigma of the trauma they have experienced and regain their independent living.

Our member organizations reached more than 90,000 women, girls and family members last year through our programming, and with this funding, we will be able to help even more women, girls and their families. These women and girls are among the most vulnerable Ohioans and we applaud your commitment to support programming to help them.