



Job and Family Services
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Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee

March 9, 2021

Testimony of Lisa Fay, JFS Administrator

Portage County Job & Family Services

HB83

Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on HB83. My name is Lisa Fay and I am the JFS Division Administrator for the Portage County Job & Family Services.

As you have heard from my county colleagues, there is no clear and consistent path for third-party caretakers to obtain child support services in Ohio. While some caretakers are able to receive child support, others are shut out of the process because they only have physical custody of a child. In Portage County a caretaker is not able to receive child support when they only have physical custody of a child. Currently, just over 27% of the Portage County establishment cases are caretaker cases we are not able to establish a support order for. In many of these cases, child support is being paid to the parent that does not have physical custody of the child.

HB83 creates a consistent process for all Child Support Enforcement Agencies to address establishment or redirection of support for caretakers. This process provides notice and an opportunity to be heard for both parties and the caretaker prior to any changes to the child support order. The intent of this legislation is for the child support to follow the child, enabling funds to reach the person who is providing primary care for the child.

On behalf of the Portage County Job & Family Services, Child Support Division, we respectfully request your support for this important legislation. Should you have any questions regarding this legislation or any other child support matters, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 330-297-3836.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Lisa Fay
JFS Child Support Administrator

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"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Public Assistance
Office - 449 S Meridian St
Fax (330)297-3439

OhioMeansJobs
Office/Center - 253 S. Chestnut St
Fax (330)296-7805

Child Support
Office - 209 S. Chestnut St Suite 203
Fax (330) 297-4559

Children & Adult Protective Services
Office - 449 S. Meridian St
Fax (330)297-2258
CARES Abuse/Neglect Hotline 330-296-2273