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Memorandum to the Ohio House State & Local Government Committee

From: The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
Date: March 29, 2022
Subj: Written Testimony in Support of HB 452

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 452. The Ohio Council extends a hearty thank you Representative Gayle Manning for sponsoring this legislation and her efforts to strengthen and improve Ohio's community behavioral health system.

As you may know, the Ohio Council is a trade and advocacy organization that represents more than 160 private entities of both non-profit and for-profit status that provide prevention, addiction treatment, mental health, and family services throughout Ohio.

The Ohio Council strongly supports HB 452 as it appropriately balances the interest of modernizing and updating the regulatory oversight authorities of the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board while also streamlining the process for individuals seeking to enter the chemical dependency counseling field. Moreover, the modernization and improvements made in HB 452 would also apply to current professionals within the field – thereby encouraging them to maintain and advance their licensure during this critical behavioral health workforce shortage. HB 452 is sound policy that also supports important recruitment and retention strategies.

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers appreciates the opportunity to offer our perspective on HB 452. We look forward to collaborating with the sponsor, the Ohio General Assembly, the DeWine Administration, and other interested parties to support this legislative measure's successful passage and enactment into law.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.