



**David Fiser**  
**Vice President, Chief Information Officer**  
**The MetroHealth System**  
**HB 230 Proponent Testimony**  
**House Technology and Infrastructure Committee**

Chair Frazier, Vice Chair Hall, Ranking Member Lightbody, thank you for providing The MetroHealth System the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to House Bill 230, a Bill regarding the state's information technology systems and shared services.

My name is David Fiser, and I am the Vice President and Chief Information Officer at The MetroHealth System. We are the safety-net health system for Cuyahoga County, caring for the most under resourced members of our community. MetroHealth's more than 7,800 employees provide care at four hospitals, four emergency departments, more than 20 health centers and 40 additional sites throughout Northeast Ohio. In the past year, MetroHealth has served 300,000 patients at more than 1.4 million visits. Seventy-five percent of our patients are uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

At MetroHealth we exchange various forms of sensitive information with the State of Ohio such as immunization data, including COVID-19 vaccine information, and reportable disease data.

A best practice approach to data management would include updating systems to current technology and protocols, providing uniform means of access and data transmission, securing both data transmission and data storage with the latest cybersecurity methodologies and continually improving cybersecurity posture as threats evolve. Providing disaster recovery and speed of recovery capabilities are crucial. In addition, reducing duplicative efforts and systems across the computing environments is a best practice. The MetroHealth System is working to apply all of those principles to our computing environment.

As outlined in the Bill Analysis – HB 230 I requires:

- The State Chief Information Officer to establish and implement a strategic roadmap for migrating the state's information technology systems to the State of Ohio Computer Center and to the state's cloud environment managed by the Office of Information Technology.

- The Director of Administrative Services to maintain a list of state-owned application software, create a strategic roadmap to consolidate state ownership of application software that is shared across state agencies, and identify data and information silos throughout the state's information technology systems.
- Makes an appropriation for the DAS Director to contract with a private entity to study the state's information technology systems and shared services and report the study's findings to the General Assembly.
- Creates the Cybersecurity and Fraud Advisory Board, which must develop and adopt best practices in cybersecurity and fraud prevention with respect to the information technology systems and shared services across state agencies.
- Creates the Biannual Advisory Council to provide information technology system enhancements to county departments that use state-owned application software.

From MetroHealth's perspective, this legislation would help make our data submission process with the State of Ohio more efficient. In addition, cybersecurity is a serious threat in the health care industry, and any actions to better help secure this important data will provide much needed deterrence and defense against these attacks.

Chair Frazier, Vice Chair Hall, Ranking Member Lightbody and members of the House Technology and Infrastructure Committee thank you for providing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 230.

I'll be happy to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

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**About The MetroHealth System**

The MetroHealth System is redefining health care by going beyond medical treatment to improve the foundations of community health and well-being: affordable housing, a cleaner environment, economic opportunity and access to fresh food, convenient transportation, legal help and other services. The system strives to become as good at preventing disease as it is at treating it.

The system's more than 600 doctors, 1,700 nurses and 7,800 employees go to work each day with a mission of service, to their patients and to the community. As Cuyahoga County's safety-net health system, MetroHealth plays an essential role in the region, caring for anyone and everyone, regardless of an ability to pay.

Founded in 1837, MetroHealth operates four hospitals, four emergency departments and more than 20 health centers and 40 additional sites throughout Cuyahoga County. The system serves

more than 300,000 patients, two-thirds of whom are uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

MetroHealth is home to Cuyahoga County's most experienced Level I Adult Trauma Center, verified since 1992, and Ohio's only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center.

As an academic medical center, MetroHealth is committed to research and to teaching and training tomorrow's caregivers. Each active staff physician holds a faculty appointment at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Its main campus hospital houses the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Lincoln-West School of Science & Health, the only high school in America located inside a hospital.

Knowing that good health is about much more than good medical care, MetroHealth has launched the Institute for H.O.P.E.<sup>™</sup> (Health, Opportunity, Partnership, Empowerment), which uses a coordinated, collaborative and strategic approach to help patients with non-medical needs such as healthy food, stable housing and job training.

The MetroHealth Glick Center, a new 11-floor hospital, is under construction on the system's main campus in Cleveland and is scheduled to welcome its first patients in October 2022. The billion-dollar project is the cornerstone of a wider neighborhood revitalization effort led by the system and its partners in the community.

For more information, visit [metrohealth.org](http://metrohealth.org).