



**Ohio Children's Hospital Association**  
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

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**Testimony before the Ohio House Behavioral Health Committee**  
**House Bill 352**  
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Chairwoman Pavliga, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Behavioral Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 352.

Ohio has the world's best statewide network of children's hospitals – Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's, Dayton Children's, Nationwide Children's Hospital, UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital. Several of our institutions are ranked among U.S. News & World Report's best children's hospitals, and all our members are ranked best in class in the nation in various aspects of pediatric care. Ohio is the only state in the nation with a flagship children's hospital within a two-hour drive of every family, including our most rural parts of the state.

We serve all of Ohio's 2.6 million children, regardless of their family's ability to pay. Our mission is to save, protect, and enhance children's lives. Our members are committed to improving all aspects of children's health – including behavioral and mental health.

In spite of world class access to care, we know there are many other determining factors that contribute to an individual's health and wellbeing. Ohio's children's hospitals work every day to support children and families outside the walls of a hospital. Since 2019, OCHA has supported the Health Policy Institute of Ohio's (HPIO) Adverse Childhood Experiences Impact Project to better understand and address ACEs in Ohio. We know Ohio has a disproportionate number of Ohioans who have been exposed to ACEs, and that this can have a negative impact on a person's health. We also know there are opportunities to both prevent ACEs and build resilience to mitigate the impacts of ACEs through public health policy initiatives.

OCHA supports Representatives Baker and Carruthers' effort to improve children's health through the creation of an Ohio ACEs Study Commission. HB 352 will support the collaboration of stakeholders to consider and pursue evidence-based initiatives that will lower health care costs and improve the health of all Ohioans.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in favor of HB 352.