



**ADAMS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
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The Honorable Justin Pizzulli  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Representative Pizzulli:

The Adams County Prosecuting Attorney's Office supports the needed addition of a separate full-time Probate and Juvenile Division Judge for Adams County. Our county is one of the four Ohio counties which have only one Common Pleas Court Judge to serve their citizens. Additionally, Adams County also operates the Wilson's Children's Home, one of the few residential facilities that remains open to help alleviate the flood of abused, neglected and dependent children. Adams County is the largest remaining county that does not have separate full-time juvenile court judge to serve our children.

Since 2010 the Adams County Juvenile Court's abuse, neglect and dependency docket has exploded exponentially. Juvenile Court caseloads have increased to the point where the Prosecuting Attorney's Office has recently hired a full-time assistant prosecutor solely to address the "*catastrophic increase*" in abuse, neglect, and dependency actions.

As Prosecuting Attorney, I affirm the sentiment of my Board of County Commissioners who stated:

*"The time for debate has ended and the time for action is upon this Board and the State Legislature. Simply put -- the most vulnerable segment of Adams County's population -- our children -- are at risk -- and deserve a full-time judge and court devoted to their health, welfare, and safety."*

The Adams County Prosecutor's Office has already committed the financial resources of a full-time subject matter expert assistant prosecutor, to accommodate a full-time Probate and Juvenile Court Judge. The Prosecutor's Office, echoing my Board of County Commissioners, respectfully requests the Ohio Legislature to take swift action in creating this additional Probate and Juvenile Court Judge. My office looks forward to assisting you to protect our children.

Respectfully yours,

David Kelley  
Adams County Prosecuting Attorney