



**Phil Plummer**  
**State Representative**  
**39<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District**  
HB 583 – Group Homes  
Sponsor Testimony

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families and Aging Committee, thank you for allowing us to come and testify on Substitute House Bill 583.

This bill aims to establish essential safeguards for the program, transforming it from merely a business venture into a high-quality service. With over 200 juvenile group homes in Ohio, including 80 in Montgomery County, our objectives are clear:

- Foster accountability and transparency.
- Mandate proper licensing, with the authority to suspend or revoke licenses for substandard performance.
- Enforce comprehensive background checks for operators.
- Require adequate training for providers and sufficient staff presence on-site.
- Enhance zoning regulations to restrict the proliferation of group homes in communities.

The strain these group homes place on local resources is undeniable:

- Increased calls to local first responders.
- A 26% surge in juvenile court cases attributable to these homes.
- Escalating hospital assaults and heightened staffing demands since their establishment.

Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure accurate data sharing among all relevant agencies contacted by group homes.

In conclusion, House Bill 583 is a crucial step towards addressing the challenges posed by juvenile group homes in our communities. I urge the Committee to support this bill for the betterment of our youth and local resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Phil Plummer

State Representative