



**Kinsey Jolliff
The MetroHealth System
HB 629 -Proponent Testimony
House Finance Committee
June 19, 2024**

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support House Bill 629.

My name is Kinsey Jolliff and I serve as MetroHealth’s Vice President of Government Relations. MetroHealth is a super safety-net provider located in Cuyahoga County, which includes the City of Cleveland and its surrounding suburbs. Founded in 1837, MetroHealth has served Cuyahoga County longer than any other Cleveland healthcare organization.

MetroHealth appreciates the funding included in the bill for our emergency department (ED) refurbishment project. Our ED on main campus has not been updated since it opened over 20 years ago. The ED currently services over 65,000 visits annually, and many of those visits are the front door for inpatient care at our Level 1 Trauma Center. The patients served come from over 730 communities across Northeastern Ohio and over 75% are enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, or Marketplace coverage, or uninsured. We also collaborate with three Ohio medical schools to provide training for the next generation of emergency department physicians.

We are eager to break ground on this work, which will provide essential updates to the functionality of the ED – the overall cost of the project will be north of \$6 million. The capital upgrades will improve clinical workflows and efficiency and will also support infectious disease prevention and energy efficiency. Specifically, the refresh will reimagine our flooring, walls, lighting, plumbing, cabinetry, doors, and restrooms to create a safer and more efficient space for our clinicians, patients and the public.

We are grateful for the funding in the bill. Any additional funding for the project will allow us to get started on the work sooner. The project is truly shovel ready.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.