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Memorandum to the Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight

From: The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
Subj: Statement in Opposition to Sub. HB 68
Date: December 5, 2023

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide our written statement in opposition for the record on Sub. HB 68.

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (the Ohio Council) is a statewide trade and advocacy organization that represents more than 160 private businesses that provide addiction treatment and prevention, mental health, and family services throughout Ohio. Several of our members provide counseling and therapy services to children, adolescents and young adults who struggle with complicated and challenging issues that affect their mental and physical health. Importantly, informed consent by the patient and parent/guardian, when treating a minor, is a hallmark of our membership's ethical guidelines, and a foundational principle ingrained within the treatment delivery process.

It appears Sub. HB 68, is unnecessary, and unfortunately, would create new obstacles to care for many of Ohio's most vulnerable youth. Additionally, we have reservations that certain provisions of the bill are not supported by evidence-based practices and would effectively impede a person's recovery effort by disrupting their medical plan of care. We urge the committee to listen to the many medical and mental healthcare practitioners who have shared their testimony and cautioned against advancing this bill.

For the forgoing reasons, the Ohio Council must oppose Sub. HB 68.