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Senate Bill 105
Ohio Senate Community Revitalization Committee
May 2, 2023

Vice Chair Hoagland and Members of the Senate Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on Senate Bill 105 with Senator Johnson.

Fundamentally, this bill modernizes the laws surrounding the ADAMH boards. Elements like the statute governing contracts between boards and providers predate the 1980s and reflect an entirely different era of state government. Given the challenges Ohio faces today with our current opioid and mental health crises, ADAMH boards need to be more responsive to the needs of their communities.

Senate Bill 105 updates the contracting authority for boards to replace a burdensome 120-day notice with the requirement that they negotiate the terms for early termination. The 120 days is something that no other similar public entity has. It slows down the ability of boards to shift resources that are critically needed by their communities. By providing them with additional flexibility, boards are able to better respond to local needs and to be better stewards of state funds.

This bill also ensures that the State takes local factors into consideration. One of the principal changes is that it requires OMHAS to communicate more directly with local ADAMH boards. By notifying local boards of investigations and oversight of feedback on provider certification and

renewal, the Department will be more responsive to the communities affected by their decisions.

We also propose a mechanism to address long-standing issues with data transparency between the boards, OMHAS, and the Department of Medicaid. Allowing all three parties to securely exchange Medicaid recipient data to ensure that the proper continuum of care is provided to those they serve.

Finally, while this provides ADAMH boards with more flexibility to respond to local needs, it is not intended to disadvantage providers. They remain critical partners in addressing drug addiction and mental health challenges in our communities. Even with the changes made by Senate Bill 105, we will still expect boards to negotiate in good faith.

As this bill makes its way through the committee process, we look forward to soliciting feedback and collaborating with stakeholders. This bill is intended to strengthen our state's response to drug addiction and mental health. We look forward to fostering discussion on this very important issue and hearing the public's perspective.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this bill. We welcome any questions you may have.