



**Public Children Services  
Association of Ohio  
www.pcsao.org**



***MEDIA ALERT***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 20, 2004**

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**New Law Will Affect Thousands of Ohio Grandparents Raising  
Grandchildren - Rep. Linda Reidelbach to Receive Award**  
*Legislation allows grandparents to make educational and medical decisions for  
grandchildren in their care*

Columbus, Ohio: In 2000, the 86,009 Ohio grandparents who told the U.S. Census Bureau they were responsible for their grandchildren couldn't have those children vaccinated or enrolled in school unless the child was in their custody. On July 20 HB 130, sponsored by Columbus area state Rep. Reidelbach, became Ohio law, allowing grandparents to make critical medical and educational decisions for their grandchildren, provided they have the correct forms, a parent or judge's permission and a notarized signature.

HB 130 creates Power of Attorney and Caregiver Authorization Affidavit forms that provide legal documentation for grandparents to access services. Crystal Ward Allen, chair of the Statewide Kinship Care Advisory Board and executive director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, says the forms will make it easier for grandparents raising their grandchildren to take care of their families and will keep more children out of foster care.

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, The number of children living with their grandparents in Ohio has increased by 14% during the past 10 years," says Allen. "Ohio grandparents are raising over 157,000 of Ohio's children. This law gives those grandparents the ability to make fundamental decisions for their families."

The Statewide Kinship Care Advisory Board will present Ohio Rep. Linda Reidelbach with an award for sponsoring the law at the Ohio Grandparent/ Kinship Coalition annual picnic next week in Columbus' Whetstone Park.

**WHAT:** The Ohio Grandparent/ Kinship Coalition Annual Picnic and recognition of Rep. Reidelbach

**WHERE:** Whetstone Park (The Park of Roses)  
3923 N. High St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43214

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 28, 2004  
10:30 am - 3:00 pm (award ceremony at 12:00 p.m.)

**WHO:** The picnic and recognition ceremony are open to the public and the media. Rep. Reidelbach's award will be presented by the Statewide Kinship Care Advisory Board and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio will present Rep. Reidelbach with an award at the picnic.

**Caretaker Authorization Affidavit and Power of Attorney forms will be available  
online July 21 at [www.pcsao.org](http://www.pcsao.org)**