



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

March 26, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor of Ohio  
77 South High Street, 30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the board and membership of Public Children Services Association of Ohio, which includes all county children services agencies, thank you for your leadership during this extraordinary time in the state's history. We appreciate the difficult decisions you have made to put the health and safety of our state's citizens front and center during the pandemic. After all, that's part of the children services mission as well.

PCSAO supports HB 197 and appreciates the bipartisan work of the General Assembly to develop a plan to address the multitude of challenges presented by this pandemic. In particular, we are grateful that county commissions and children services boards that are essential to the oversight and administration of child protection will be able to meet remotely, but still with citizen input, under this legislation. Recognizing that many families involved in the children services system already struggle with basic needs, we also appreciate efforts to prevent disconnection of utilities and expand eligibility for unemployment compensation, so as to reduce additional stress on families. In consideration of current and former foster youth, we are pleased by efforts to not penalize young people whose schooling has been interrupted. Finally, we appreciate the flexibility of pandemic day care centers and that child protection caseworkers are deemed an essential service and be prioritized to have access to such centers.

Your compassion and advocacy for children and families – particularly those affected by mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and other factors that lead to abuse and neglect of children – has never been more needed or appreciated. We look forward to continuing to work with your administration during this crisis and long after it has passed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Sausser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Sausser, MA, MSW, LSW  
Executive Director