



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

Ohio House of Representatives  
House Finance Committee  
Testimony on HB166  
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Good morning Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the Committee. My name is Angela Sausser and I am the Executive Director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's 88 county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.

I stand before you today, representing Ohio's children services system that is in crisis, with a brief message --- **thank you**.

**Thank you** for listening to your local public children services agencies as they have reached out asking for help with our current crisis. **Thank you** to those of you who have taken the opportunity to meet personally with your local staff and for those who have met with children and families who are served by children services. **Thank you** for not only maintaining Governor DeWine's significant investments in children services but for adding to that investment through your budget deliberations.

Through the leadership of Speaker Householder, and bipartisan support from you and your colleagues, the House has matched the Governor's original investment in direct county funding, doubling the state's total current allocation for county children services agencies.

This makes it very clear that Ohio is committed to our most vulnerable children – those who are abused and neglected – and that commitment is real. You are standing up for all Ohio children who experience trauma, spend birthdays away from home in foster care and grow up with reduced prospects for employment and stability.

This bold investment will have a lasting impact on children and families in Ohio struggling with addiction and other challenges that lead to child abuse and neglect. This bold investment will stabilize local public children services agencies that have been overwhelmed by the addiction epidemic and traumatized children. This bold investment brings a new opportunity to begin reforming the children services system so we can achieve the goal of a safe, stable, loving family for **all** Ohio children.

On behalf of those children and families and on behalf of the local public children services agencies, **thank you**, Speaker Householder, Chairman Oelslager, the members of the Committee.