



Ohio Judicial Conference

The Voice of Ohio Judges

House Families & Aging Committee

Paul Pfeifer

Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 583

November 12, 2024

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families and Aging Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to submit interested party testimony for House Bill 583 on behalf of the Ohio Judicial Conference. I am Paul Pfeifer, Executive Director of the Ohio Judicial Conference.

The OJC thanks the sponsors, Representative Plummer and Representative White, for including us in the initial interested party meeting for this legislation. It was apparent from the feedback at that meeting that more regulation and oversight of certain group homes is necessary. Additionally, Ohio's group home licensing procedure would receive needed updates pursuant to this bill.

The juvenile judges have raised one concern with the bill's impact to placement of delinquent children. The bill would prohibit a child who has been adjudicated delinquent from being placed in a residential facility with foster children who are not delinquent children and requires the delinquent child to be placed in a specialized residential facility. As a practical matter, many children involved with the juvenile court system have dual status as both an adjudicated delinquent and a foster child. Juvenile judges are unaware of many specialized residential facilities that could accept placement of delinquent children. The bill would negatively impact delinquent children receiving treatment in residential facilities. It is unclear if similar services could be provided in other facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit interested party testimony on H.B. 583. We look forward to working with the sponsors and this Committee on further improvements to the bill. We would be happy to follow up on any questions you may have.