



**County
Commissioners
Association of Ohio**

Serving Ohio Counties Since 1880

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To: Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee
From: Cheryl Subler, Managing Director of Policy
RE: Am Sub HB 483

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight some provisions of particular interest to Ohio's counties in Am Sub 483.

First, I would like to express our support for the additional investments made in the critical areas of adult and child protective services. For too long these programs to protect Ohio's most vulnerable citizens have been underfunded and counties have been dedicating local dollars to, in many cases, provide even a base level of service.

In addition, our members have expressed concern with behavioral health provisions in the bill that would redirect and reprioritize funding in our communities, and could restrict boards' abilities to meet the most pressing needs in their particular community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express CCAO's support for an amendment proposed by the Ohio Newspaper Association (ONA) to enhance the utility of Ohio's public notice website. While the site is currently operated by state government, the amendment would charge ONA to maintain and operate the site.

The public notice site currently operated by DAS is underutilized by counties, as counties must create a separate abbreviated notice, which can be time consuming for county staff. ONA has agreed to work with us to develop a more streamlined abbreviated notice process as part of their website design should the amendment be adopted, meaning fewer publications must be made for counties.

This approach to public notice on the web would provide many benefits to state and local governments, as well as the general public. The public will be able to go to one user-friendly website to access public notice information. Local governments will not see an increase in costs for this service, and state government will save dollars and resources dedicated to operating the current website.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters regarding the county human services delivery system, as well as adoption of the amendment to improve Ohio's public notice website. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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