



Ohio Sunset Review Committee

Testimony on behalf of the Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council

June 11th, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and members of the Committee. My name is Bryan Stout and I am with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. The Ohio Department of Children and Youth will serve as the administrative agent for the Early Childhood Advisory Council beginning January 1, 2025 (R.C. 5104.50)

The Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council was established in law in 2009 and is tasked with fulfilling state requirements under federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)(1), as well as to promote family-centered programs and services that acknowledge and support the social, emotional, cognitive, intellectual, and physical development of children and the vital role of families in ensuring the well-being and success of children.

The Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council meets on a quarterly basis. Comprised of 32 members in total, of which nine are state employees, the Council has a workload that requires approximately 40 hours per month for five state employees each week for the purposes of meeting planning and carrying out assigned tasks. Most recently, the Council has been advising on the modification to Step Up To Quality, Ohio's Quality Rating and Improvement System and the expansion of the Early Childhood Education grants. Additionally, the continued existence of the Advisory Council allows the state of Ohio to access federal funding for the Head Start Collaboration grant, currently \$225,000 in funding.

We therefore would recommend the continuation of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, given its current activity, low direct cost to the state, and it facilitating compliance with federal requirements.

Thank you, Chair. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.