

December 29, 2009

Tracy Plouck, State Medicaid Director
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans
50 W. Town
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Plouck:

We are writing to express our bi-partisan support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for pediatric quality improvement resources through federal CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants.

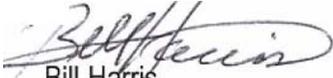
The Ohio proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ohio's proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio throughout the entire spectrum of children's health care. These networks include family advocacy groups, pediatricians, perinatal providers, researchers, professional organizations, state agencies, and our world class children's hospitals. This is a group that has already delivered proven results through similar efforts and has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families.

The proposed program builds upon past and current successful collaborative efforts among these organizations to create what we believe will become a national model for quality care for Ohio's youngest population. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, the Ohio collaboration seeks to make Ohio a leader by achieving the best birth outcomes in the country, setting a national example related to developmental screening of children, improving the quality of mental health care for children and making Ohio the safest place in the country for children to receive hospital care. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising new ideas to improve the quality of children's health care and demonstrate improved outcomes.

Medicaid has many diverse constituents, none perhaps as important as those of our future - our children. With Medicaid and CHIP providing coverage to over 1.2 million Ohio children, initiatives such as this one are critical to ensuring Ohio is at the forefront of delivering world class children's health care. We strongly

support the vision your team has developed and believe it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,



Bill Harris
President
Ohio Senate



Armono Budish
Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives



Capri Cafaro
Minority Leader
Ohio Senate



William Batchelder
Minority Leader
Ohio House of Representatives