



Advocates for Ohio's Future
510 East Mound Street, Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43215
614-602-2463 | 614-602-2464 | Fax 614-228-5150
www.advocatesforohio.org

PRESS RELEASE

June 5, 2014

CONTACT

Mark Davis, 513-218-5991
Col Owens, 513-300-3042

Final Budget Bill Supports Ohio Children, Seniors and Families

COLUMBUS—The Ohio House and Senate passed House Bill 483, a budget bill that includes new investments in Ohio's children, seniors and families.

"The bill takes clear steps to support families and communities in Ohio. Advocates for Ohio's Future is grateful for the work of the House, the Senate and the Administration for supporting important investments to protect children and seniors from abuse and neglect," said Col Owens, Co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future. "We appreciate the efforts of our advocacy partners and supporters across the state who helped build the case for these timely investments."

The House and Senate passed House Bill 483 with \$36 million in new investments to strengthen families and communities, including:

- \$10 million to strengthen Adult Protective Services across Ohio. The investment will improve the state's capacity to protect older Ohioans from abuse, neglect, and exploitation and help ensure Ohio seniors live with safety and dignity.
- \$10 million to strengthen Child Welfare services in all 88 counties. The investment will build on improvements and outcomes for over 100,000 children and their families.
- \$16 million to improve access to child care, provide greater stability for working parents and provide children continuous access to early learning programs.

Lawmakers also restored funding for Ohio's Federally Qualified Health Centers and recognized that Ohio's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps make work pay for low-income Ohioans. Lawmakers increased the state's EITC from 5 percent to 10 percent of the federal credit.

"We believe creating opportunities for all Ohioans takes investment, now and into the future," Advocates for Ohio's Future State Director Will Petrik said. "The investments in HB 483 help Ohioans participate in the economy and our communities."

After Governor Kasich signs the bill into law, work groups, led by Cynthia Dungey, Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), must meet and provide recommendations on the distribution of the funds for adult protective services and child welfare before most of those funds will reach the counties. The work groups will also examine the long-term needs of both systems and resources to build a strong infrastructure for child welfare and adult protective services programs going forward.

"We look forward to working with lawmakers, the administration and other stakeholders to ensure that Ohio's 88 counties have the resources to ensure the safety of children and older adults," said Mark Davis, Co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future.