

# *Moms for Ohio*

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Dear Chairman Willamowski and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We are writing to you today regarding HB 256, which if passed would allow a prospective juror to be excused for a variety of reasons, one of which will include moms who need to be at home to care for their young children. It's our understanding that the reasons for excusing the prospective juror will also include a parent who is providing home instruction for their child, as well as prospective jurors who are the primary caregiver for a disabled or elderly family member.

As Ohioans, we want to do everything we can to serve our state. And ensuring that our court systems continue to provide Ohio families with a system that is fair and just to all is important to all of us, but as moms our first responsibility is to care for our children. Mothers should not be forced to choose between civic duty and the duty that we each have to care for our child. Although many of us would be happy and honored to serve as jurors, there are some moms who simply do not have access to quality daycare. To force these moms to put their child in a situation that would be unsafe would be horribly wrong.

As moms, we want to set a good example for our children when it comes to civic duty and community service, and yet we must put the well-being of our children first. HB 256 would allow moms to do both. HB 256 doesn't say that moms will receive permanent deferrals from jury duty; it simply allows moms to defer their jury duty while they are caring for a young child or elderly disabled relative.

We all share the same dreams for our children. We want them to be happy and successful. We want them to be wise enough to make good choices and brave enough to stand by them in the face of peer pressure. We hope they will become compassionate, hard-working adults, adults who understand as much about the responsibilities of being a United States Citizen, as they do about the rewards. But before they can become responsible adults who serve in their communities, they must first be children. And as children they need to be loved and cared for, and they need to come first. Please help ensure that moms will be able to continue to give their children and families the care they deserve, please support HB 256. We thank you for your consideration of this pro-family bill, and for all that each one of you do each and every day to serve Ohio's families.

Sincerely,

*Theresa Fleming*

Theresa Fleming  
Director of Moms for Ohio