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November 16, 2016

The Honorable Robert Cole Sprague
Chairman, House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Sprague:

Throughout its 103-year history, The Center for Community Solutions (CCS) has been a leader in identifying community issues, analyzing and explaining them, and proposing non-partisan recommendations. CCS includes, among its priorities, improving access to behavioral health services, particularly substance abuse prevention and treatment. To this end, CCS offers its support of Substitute Senate Bill 319 (2016 Mid-Biennium Review: Opiates and Addiction Services).

Sub. S.B. 319 continues the Administration's and General Assembly's diligent work to combat the opiate crisis in Ohio. There are many moving pieces to deal with as it relates to this crisis and Sub. S.B. 319 addresses several of these evolving issues. Sub. S.B. 319 seeks to put in place additional protections around the use of medication-assisted treatment, increase access to treatment, implement oversight where appropriate, and expand availability of life-saving Naloxone.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Sub. S.B. 319. We encourage the Subcommittee to favorably report this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Tara Britton

Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Edward D. and Dorothy E. Lynde Fellow