



Treasurer Sprague's *Family Forward* Initiative Draws Support from Across Ohio

Betsie Norris – Executive Director, Adoption Network Cleveland

"I want to thank Representative Cross and Treasurer Sprague for their innovative and proactive approach to this legislation. Each year hundreds of Ohio foster children age out of care, having never discovered the blessings of a loving and permanent family. We cannot let money or finances be an obstacle to finding homes for these children. Family Forward makes significant changes to Ohio law that will positively impact those seeking to adopt.

"Tax credits and other incentives are important ways to encourage adoption. But coupling those with low interest loans to help bridge the gap between the time expenses are incurred and tax credits are realized will have a positive and meaningful impact for those families seeking to adopt. I am delighted to stand with Representative Cross and Treasurer Sprague in supporting this important initiative."

Angela Boblitt – Executive Director, Choosing Hope Adoptions

"Choosing Hope Adoptions is dedicated to helping families successfully navigate the adoption journey. That is why we are proud to support Family Forward, legislation that will help ease the financial burdens families face during the adoption process. Access to these funds will allow more Ohio adoptive families to lead with a 'yes' for the at-risk children in our state."

Mike Gonidakis – President, Ohio Right to Life

"Ohio Right to Life is excited to partner with Treasurer Sprague and Representative Cross on the creation of Family Forward. This innovative legislation breaks down arguably the largest barrier to adoption for Ohio families – the cost. This new program will open doors to ensure that adoptions are more affordable and accessible for all Ohioans."

Mark Mecum – Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Children's Alliance

"As Ohio's oldest children's advocacy organization, the Ohio Children's Alliance supports the Family Forward legislation introduced today by State Rep. Jon Cross.

"We would like to commend Rep. Cross and Treasurer Robert Sprague for working with provider stakeholders to lower financial barriers to adoption. Some estimate that for every child up for adoption, there are 36 couples waiting to adopt. This legislation provides us with another tool to close this gap and provide loving parents to children who need it the most."