



[Legislator]
[Address]

August 23, 2019

Dear [Legislator],

On behalf of those living with cystic fibrosis (CF) in Ohio, we write to thank you for your continued support of the Children with Medical Handicaps Program (BCMh, also known as CMH) this budget cycle.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects approximately 1,550 people in Ohio and 30,000 people in the United States. CF causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and digestive system, which can lead to life-threatening infections. As a complex, multi-system condition, CF requires targeted, specialized treatment and medications.

BCMh is a state program run by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and acts as a safety net for children with special health care needs who meet medical and financial eligibility requirements. It fills gaps in coverage related to the child's special health condition and acts as a payer of last resort and helps families pay for the services their child needs. BCMh also provides services for people over age 21 with cystic fibrosis, including prescription medications, medical supplies, special formula, and public health nursing visits.

The CF community in Ohio is incredibly grateful for the support we and the BCMh program have received from the state legislature. Along with the nearly 40,000 other Ohioans who advocate on behalf of a loved one with CF, we are appreciative that the passed budget contains such robust support for both the Medically Handicapped Children line item and the Targeted Health Care Services – Over 21 line item. By increasing funding for the Targeted Health Care Services – Over 21 line item in the 2020-2021 budget, you helped restore coverage of previously cut services for adults with CF like hospital stays and CF care center clinic visits, which are critical to quality CF care and treatment.

Thank you again for your support of the CF community in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Dwight".

Mary Dwight
Senior Vice President, Policy & Advocacy
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Feng".

Lisa Feng, DrPH
Senior Director, Policy & Advocacy
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation