



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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February 14, 2018

United States Senate  
Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: BRIGID'S PATH**

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

Jill Kingston, Executive Director of Brigid's Path, shared with me the Senate Finance Committee's letter asking for recommendations regarding the opioid epidemic.

Brigid's Path is an incredibly important part of our community because not only does it give babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) a place to withdraw safely, it gives their mothers and fathers a place to get connected to services in the community that will help them succeed. While Jill and her team have benefited from the generosity of the Dayton area community, Medicaid reimbursement for the services Brigid's Path provides is critical for the long-term sustainability of the organization. Therefore, we are asking you to support passage of the CRIB Act.

Something Brigid's Path does really well that isn't always practiced in other care settings is providing services in a nonjudgmental way. It is imperative that the parents of babies suffering from NAS feel comfortable in the clinical setting when visiting and bonding with their babies. Educating and empowering parents to build a relationship with their baby and to feel respected during that time will increase the likelihood that they will stay connected to their child. Building trust with a Brigid's Path Strengths Based Case Manager will help them get connected to community services that can ultimately help sustain their ability to parent effectively and live successful lives.

From a law enforcement perspective, consider the following:

- In 2017, more than 800 people in Montgomery County died from an opiate overdose, more than double the previous year's record of 349 opioid deaths.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- The coroner who services Montgomery County and 29 others estimated in a December 2017 article for CNN that 60% to 70% of the bodies are the result of an opioid overdose.
- Since 2016, to deal with the surge in overdose deaths, the coroner hired six part-time coroners, two autopsy technicians and three field investigators. He also extended some of the staff's workday by three hours so they had time to perform more autopsies and remodeled the morgue freezer to fit more bodies.
- Said the coroner in the CNN article, "This is a mass fatality crisis."

Brigid's Path is a key factor to slowing the opioid epidemic in the Dayton area because it provides great medical care to babies as they withdraw from opiates and other drugs, *and* because it recognizes that the parents of those babies should have a chance to get into treatment, realize their value as people, and become productive members of society. This dynamic is imperative in order to reduce incarceration and overdose deaths, and to avoid overburdening the foster care system. Medicaid reimbursement for Brigid's Path and other pediatric recovery centers is a necessary first step toward providing long-term sustainability for this important component of the care continuum. Medicaid reimbursement for pediatric recovery centers provides a fiscally responsible solution to a portion of the opioid crisis, because centers like Brigid's Path are a more cost-effective alternative to a hospital setting. Please consider supporting the CRIB Act.

Sincerely,



**PHIL PLUMMER**

**SHERIFF**