

*Note: This letter will be sent on
OACBHA letterhead to all members
of the Ohio General Assembly*

July 31, 2021

The Honorable Bob Cupp
Speaker of the House
Ohio House of Representative
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Cupp,

On behalf of the OACBHA members and our Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council, I am sharing the enclosed *Year in Review* report and the latest edition of our Developing a Better understanding one-pager series on *Building Capacity to Enhance Behavioral Health Equity*.

Every community in our state is affected by the repercussions of the drug epidemic and mental illness. These challenges touch the lives of all Ohioans, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic background. While confronting one behavioral health crisis, another slowly emerged with the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

In the past year, there has been more research, public discussion, and goal setting involving health equity than ever before. The OACBHA Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Council has engaged in this work with the aim of developing and implementing a plan and strategies to reduce health disparities and create health equity. The enclosed Year in Review report outlines the activities and accomplishments of the last year and the priorities and next steps for the future.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support individuals and families throughout Ohio impacted by mental illness and substance use disorders. We look forward to continuing to work with you to celebrate recovery, promote health equity, and improve the health and well-being of all Ohioans. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (614)224-1111 or cwalter@oacbha.org.

Sincerely,



Cheri L. Walter
Chief Executive Officer