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## Letter of Support for the 2026 Qualified Action Plan (QAP)

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**Date** Mon 7/14/2025 10:23 AM

**To** QAP, OHFA <QAP@ohiohome.org>

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To the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA):

I am reaching out about the first-of-its kind set-aside in the 2026 Qualified Action Plan (QAP) that would prioritize housing for vulnerable families. Nearly half of all babies who die in Ohio live in unstable housing. A set-aside prioritizing housing for pregnant and newly parenting families could save lives and alleviate that crisis, as well as mitigate other public health challenges that adversely impact these individuals and families.

Stable housing not only reduces preterm births by 40%, but also is correlated with a 45% reduction in emergency room visits during an infant's first year of life. Mothers in stable housing are 2.5 times more likely to receive adequate prenatal care as well.

The impact that stable housing has on improving maternal and infant health is well-documented, as it results in families being able to break the cycle of stress, instability, and poor health outcomes. As an Ohio resident, parent, and public health professional, I strongly urge OFHA to recognize its importance and prioritize a set-aside to ensure stable housing for pregnant and newly parenting families.

Thank you,

Tiasha Barik Letostak, PhD, MPH.