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**DSAGC STATEMENT ON OHIO'S DOWN SYNDROME NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT**

January 22, 2018 (Cincinnati, Ohio): The Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act, the Ohio law recently signed by Governor John Kasich, makes it illegal for doctors to perform abortions in cases where prenatal testing reveals the fetus has, or likely has, Down syndrome. Doctors will face felony charges and possible revocation of their licenses; women seeking these abortions will not be penalized.

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati (DSAGC) was not associated with the creation or advocacy of this bill (HB 214/S 164). We share some of the concerns expressed by Down syndrome advocates, including the National Down Syndrome Congress, regarding the fact that this legislation could inhibit honest, open communication between expectant parents and medical professionals. We believe healthcare providers should be required to provide their patients with accurate, up-to-date information about the realities of having Down syndrome in contemporary America.

To this end, the DSAGC regularly works with medical professionals, caregivers, and families to provide free, accurate information about Down syndrome and the realism of caring for a loved one with Down syndrome. In 2014, the DSAGC Government Affairs Committee played an integral part in passing the Ohio Down Syndrome Pro-Information Law (ORC 3701.69), which requires healthcare professionals to provide expectant and postpartum patients with an unbiased, up-to-date fact sheet about Down syndrome along with the names of both local and national Down syndrome organizations. The DSAGC also supports, counsels, and provides resources to parents who have received prenatal or postpartum diagnoses. Additional information can be found at <http://www.dsagc.com/new-expectant-parents/>.

Furthermore, the DSAGC feels that it is important for expectant parents to know that if they feel they cannot parent a child with Down syndrome, adoption can be an option. The National Down Syndrome Adoption Network (NDSAN) was founded in Cincinnati and has been operating as part of the DSAGC since 1982. NDSAN offers counsel and information to parents who have received a diagnosis and may be considering an adoption plan for their child. If they choose adoption, the NDSAN has a registry of families all over the U.S. who have completed home studies and are ready to adopt a child with Down syndrome. Over the last few years, the NDSAN has supported the adoption of nearly 200 children with Down syndrome. For more information about the National Down Syndrome Adoption Network, visit [www.ndsan.org](http://www.ndsan.org).

The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati supports over 1,400 children, adults, and families across 12 counties in Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeastern Indiana, and envisions a community that embraces, supports and inspires individuals with Down syndrome to live healthy, self-determined and fulfilling lives. For additional information, visit <http://www.dsagc.com>.

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