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Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
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February 10, 2015

Dear Director Plouck,

As Directors of the ten state accredited Ohio Forensic Centers, we would like to graciously thank the administration for recognizing the valuable services that we offer our counties' Courts of Common Pleas and the other criminal justice and mental health related services in our regions. We strive to provide evidence-based, expertly crafted mental health opinions to our courts, and promote the ideals of objectivity and excellence in all forensic evaluation opinions proffered. We promote these ideals to our colleagues and consultants through training conferences and supervision. Further, we never fail to consider the community's safety, as well as the individual's most clinically appropriate interventions, as we are formulating these opinions and conducting our training.

This continued support allows us to also serve our colleagues in the state hospitals, the prison system and the state and county Mental Health and Addiction Services Boards, and Developmental Disability Boards to find effective solutions to many of our risk and mental health community safety issues. We are proud to serve the courts of Ohio, and appreciate this recognition of our work via a well-considered funding increase.

Our services allow the Court system to operate more smoothly partly by providing requested and required forensic evaluations. Also, some Forensic Centers provide programs for mentally ill individuals who find themselves in trouble with the law and who may need to learn how to better understand and function within the legal system. Although most mentally ill individuals are not violent, some centers help the legal system to manage certain mentally ill individuals who are potentially at risk. At times we provide education to law enforcement about the mentally ill, and mutually strive to find better ways to manage problematic situations; this fosters public safety as well as benefitting people suffering from mental illness. We again thank you for the funding which allows us to serve the public.

Sincerely,



Andrew D. Reisner, Psy.D.

President, The Association of Ohio Forensic Evaluation Center Directors

Cc: Melissa Craddock, Deputy Director for Public Affairs