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**State Representative**

**Monique Smith**

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**Representative Monique Smith Appointed Co-Chair of Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus**

COLUMBUS – Today, **Representative M. Smith (D- Fairview Park)** announced that she was appointed Co-Chair of the Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as co-chair of the Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus alongside my Republican colleague Senator Stephanie Kunze,” said **Representative Smith**. “I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of this caucus in working across the aisle and with the Governor’s office to promote policies that ensure the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and parents across Ohio.”

Representative Smith was selected by the Caucus to replace House Minority Leader Allison Russo **(D-Upper Arlington)**.

“I am so grateful and humbled to have co-chaired the Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus these past two General Assemblies”, said **Leader Russo.** “During this time, our members have used their collective knowledge and diverse perspectives to champion children’s issues through meaningful legislative, administrative, and budgetary action. While I will miss co-chairing the Children’s Caucus with Senator. Kunze and our wonderful co-chairs, Representative Manchester and Senator Sykes, I am confident that Representative Monique Smith will be a strong advocate for Ohio’s youngest citizens. I look forward to continuing work with my colleagues to help ensure every Ohio child is healthy, cared for, fed, educated, and nurtured.”

Established in 2019, the Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral caucus devoted to championing children’s issues in the state legislature through meaningful legislative, administrative, and budgetary action. To work towards its goal of ensuring every child is healthy, cared for, fed, educated, and nurtured, the caucus focuses on:

         Continuum of care for mothers and their children

         Early childhood education and child care

         K-12 school funding

         Social, emotional, mental, behavioral health and wellness for children and their families

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