



**Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan
58th Ohio House District**

March 10, 2015

Dr. Rodney E. Hill
Associates in Women's Health
1350 5th Ave, Suite 324
Youngstown, OH 44504

Dear Doctor Hill,

I am writing to congratulate you on being invited to participate in the inaugural Ohio Commission on Minority Health Medical Expert Panel Series. The invitation is a testament to your experience as an obstetrician/gynecologist and your valuable insight regarding Ohio's high infant-mortality rate. I am pleased that the Mahoning Valley will have such a strong voice contributing to the conversation on how to tackle this important issue.

As you are surely aware, Ohio's infant mortality rate is significantly higher than the national average, which declined twelve percent from 2005-2011 while Ohio's rate remained stagnant. For African-American babies the statistics are even grimmer: as of 2012, Ohio had the worst infant mortality rate of any state in the nation for African-American babies who die before they are a year old.

As the State Representative for the Youngstown area and as a member of both the Health & Aging Committee and the Community & Family Advancement Committee, I am eager to help in any way I can. I encourage you to keep me up to date on the panel's ongoing discussions regarding infant mortality, and if I can be of any assistance in my role as a legislator, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, congratulations on being invited to participate in the inaugural Ohio Commission on Minority Health Medical Expert Panel Series. I look forward to working together on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele Lepore-Hagan".

Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan

House District 58

MLH/jgf

Committees:

Commerce & Labor, ranking member
Community & Family Advancement
Health & Aging
Transportation & Infrastructure

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