

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OPHA, Thoughtwell Release Health and Equity in All Policies Literature Review, Case Studies Report**

*Study links strong reasons to support S.B. 302 (Tavares)*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA), today issued its *Enacting Health and Equity in All Policies: Literature Review and Case Studies* report. Health and Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas. The study was conducted by Thoughtwell, a non-profit research, evaluation and data center based in Columbus.

“The purpose of this study was to understand the potential benefits, best practices and costs associated with implementing a HEiAP initiative in Ohio,” said OPHA president, Joe Ebel. “By taking a look across the national landscape, we see this report as an important step in independently evaluating the practical applications and feasibility of addressing health concerns through policymaking.”

The release of this report follows the introduction by Senator Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) of Senate Bill 302, the Health and Equity in All Policies Legislative Initiative. Like Ohio’s Common-Sense Initiative, which requires all state agencies to consider the regulatory burden and negative cost to businesses in their oversight and rule-making responsibilities, the HEiAP initiative creates a systematic legislative review for determining the potential impact of proposed laws on the overall health of Ohioans.

“Thoughtwell was pleased to partner with OPHA to take an initial look at what other states are doing relative to HEiAP initiatives, and how their experiences may translate in Ohio,” said Lynnette Cook, Ph.D., Executive Director of Thoughtwell. “Clearly there is potential for a HEiAP initiative in Ohio to achieve both short and long-term health benefits and have a positive consequential economic impact.”

Through case studies, a literature review and an economic analysis, the study finds the link between having health considerations in policy and improved health is strong. The study also finds that where many health and equity initiatives around the country are relatively new, and the impacts are not yet known, there is potential for a HEiAP initiative in Ohio to achieve health benefits and have a considerably positive economic impact. The study further shows the different ways in which these types of initiatives from other states can be enacted and operationalized.

**To view the full report, visit:** <https://ohiophya.org/about-opha/sections-and-subjects/heiap/>

**Media Advisory:** *Media are invited to attend a media availability event to discuss the report and Senate Bill 302 (Tavares) on Thursday June 21, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus.*

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