

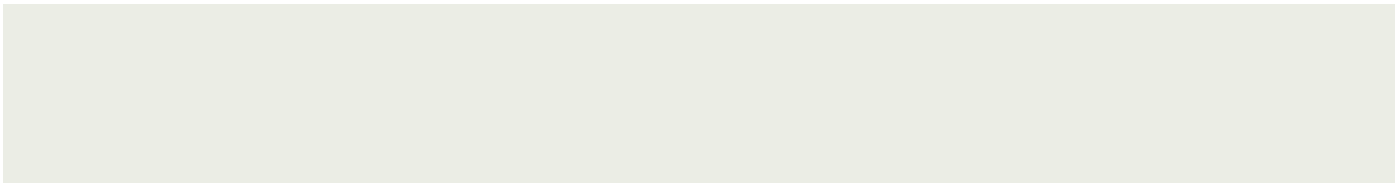
Debra applied and was selected to complete the externship with University Hospitals Office of Government Relations in the Fall of her senior year in 2009. University Hospitals Office of Government Relations serves as a liaison between University Hospitals including Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and the government at the local, state and federal levels. The office works closely with legislators and hospital personnel to impact policy that concerns the health, safety and general well-being of children. Debra's main responsibility as an extern was to research and apply for Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations for five University Hospital facilities.

Debra also assisted on numerous other projects. She helped in gaining Northern Ohio Poison Center (NOPC) funding by researching Ohio counties' budget processes. The NOPC serves one third of the state of Ohio by providing information to families and health professionals about poison control. She also researched and summarized new state health-related legislation, drafted policy memoranda and assisted in outreach and partnership-building on a regular basis.

BACKGROUND: Lack of Physicians Impedes Children's Access to Health Care

The current number of pediatricians in the workforce is adequate to serve the number of children in the country; however, there are critical variances in the equitable distribution of

physicians. Urban and rural areas are commonly underserved.¹ Ohio has a shortage of primary care doctors: pediatricians, general and family practitioners, obstetrician/gynecologists, and internists.² Some government programs have been funded to improve access to health care where there is a shortage of providers, such as



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Jill E. Korbin, Ph.D. DIRECTOR
