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Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives

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Sponsor Testimony – HB 52

February 22, 2017

Chairman Butler, Vice-Chair Hughes, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 52. This piece of legislation would regulate the solicitation of certain deeds and thereby help to protect our elderly population from deceptive marketing practices.

Currently, many Ohioans are receiving a notice from companies outside of our state informing them that they need a copy of the deed to their house. These notices have an official look and request that the individual send upwards of \$80 or \$90 to receive their copy. Unfortunately, for these individuals who are unaware, you do not need a copy of your deed and if you would like to obtain a copy, your County Recorder's office has it on file and can provide you a copy for less than a dollar in most cases.

In many cases, the individuals who fall victim to this deed solicitation scam will not come forward with their complaint to the Attorney General's office because they are embarrassed or are simply unaware of the correct way to do so. This bill boils down to an additional consumer protection and is an attempt at eliminating the bad actors who are preying on unsuspecting and unaware individuals.

The penalty for these violations is a fine that increases with each subsequent violation. The Ohio Recorders' Association supports House Bill 52 and we believe this piece of legislation will help to stop the abuse of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee for allowing me the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 52. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

OHIO'S 43RD HOUSE DISTRICT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY: TROTWOOD, HARRISON TOWNSHIP, CLAYTON,
BROOKVILLE, NEW LEBANON, PERRY TOWNSHIP
ALL OF PREBLE COUNTY

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