



Micah Derry, State Director  
HOUSE FEDERALISM & INTERSTATE RELATIONS  
Proponent Testimony on HB 580  
Tuesday June 26, 2018

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Becker, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 580 this afternoon.

My name is Micah Derry, and I am the State Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio, the state’s largest grassroots organization advocating for a free and open society. As an organization that fights the internal and external barriers that act as obstacles for our country’s least fortunate, we support House Bill 580. This legislation adds measures to our state’s evaluation process as we pursue federal dollars in the form of grants.

It should not be lost on us that the federal government and its agencies have discovered a very strong coercion point in state government. That point lies in the ongoing struggle for funding revenue to coalesce with the ever-present demands of services for the state to provide. As the federal agencies seek influence and sway with state and local governments, a powerful tool in their repertoire is that of grants of cash – with strings attached.

These strings take on many different forms, either through changes in Ohio’s Administrative Code, perhaps even through legislation, or by requiring that rules stay on the books for years to come even though the grant was a one-time cash infusion.

House Bill 580 requires the agencies applying for grants to do a full assessment of the impact of complying with any aspect of the grant. It also puts the governor in the driver’s seat by requiring his or her review of that assessment, equipped with a written report from the Office of Budget Management, and gives full authority to the governor to stop an agency from receiving a grant.

A realistic outcome of this legislation is not necessarily a drastic decrease in federal grants to our state, but rather that our executive bodies have to have a full picture of what secondary and even tertiary costs may entail.

Thank you for the time to share our thoughts today, Chair Roegner. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

*Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local*

*infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.AmericansForProsperity.org](http://www.AmericansForProsperity.org).*