



WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

HB 415

**Kent Scarrett, Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League**

January 24, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 415, which would create a new state fund to provide money to local governments for road improvements called the Local Government Road Improvement Fund. The fund would receive an allocation of 50% of whatever the state's surplus revenue annually.

The legislation would allocate 50% of the state's surplus revenue each year to a newly-created Local Government Road Improvement Fund (LGRIF) to be distributed to each county based on the number of locally-maintained road lane miles in their jurisdiction in proportion to the road lane miles in the state. The county will then place the funds in an Undivided Local Government Road Improvement Fund (ULGRIF) within the county treasury. Within thirty days, each political subdivision within that country will receive a portion of those revenues based on the proportion of the lane road miles that political subdivision maintains. The local government can only use that money for road improvements. Additionally, the bill states the Ohio General Assembly cannot pass any legislation reducing the existing Local Government Fund amount.

The provisions in the legislation are crucial to the continued health and growth of our municipalities and therefore, by proxy, the health and growth of the state as a whole. Some studies report that as much as 17% of Ohio's public roads are in such poor condition that it costs the average Ohioan \$475 in vehicle repair costs annually. With the reduction in the Local Government Fund over the past several years, compounded with the loss or reduction in other local revenue sources, municipalities across the state are struggling to fund improvements to damaged roads and often must further burden the taxpayer.

Improved roads mean safer travels, smoother transport of commerce and increased economic development. Municipalities can't afford to let its transportation infrastructure or its LGF revenues be eroded any further. An investment in local road improvement is an investment in Ohio, in its citizens and its economic success. We appreciate Rep. Greenspan and Rep. Ryan recognizing this need and continuing to work towards making a sustainable investment.

We strongly urge the passage of HB 415. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League