



**Representative Michael E. Henne**  
**Ohio House District 40**

**HB 119 Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Community and Family Advancement Committee**  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present HB119, the Protecting Public Assistance Integrity Act.

Before we go into the details of the bill, I want to emphasize this is not about cutting benefits to the families these programs are designed to help. This bill is simply about eliminating fraud and making sure Ohioan's tax dollars are correctly allocated. We are stewards of the tax payers' money and we must take that job seriously in order to make sure we are using those dollars as efficiently as possible.

HB 119 requires the Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Office of Medicaid to perform quarterly eligibility verifications and act upon information identified in place of the current annual requirement on the following:

- Identity
- Citizenship and alien eligibility
- Social security numbers
- State residency status
- Disability status
- Gross nonexempt income
- Household status
- Medical expenses
- Enrollment status in other state-administered public assistance programs within and outside the state.
- Household composition (SNAP only)
- Utility expenses (SNAP only)
- Any available information related to potential identity fraud or identity theft (SNAP only)

To accomplish these checks the department may contract with a vendor, and shall explore joining a multi-state cooperative to identify individuals enrolled in other states.

If a discrepancy is found, the department will redetermine eligibility and the recipient will be notified, consistent with federal regulations. If fraud is suspected, the case shall be referred for an administrative disqualification hearing or for investigation to the county prosecutor.



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During this entire process, benefits are not discontinued or denied until final determination is made, doing everything possible not to harm anyone relying on these benefits.

We spent a significant amount of time working with state and local departments and interested parties in crafting this bill. We all understand we have limited dollars and many in need. We need to make sure that the dollars used in these programs are going to their intended recipients. Every dollar which goes to someone who does not qualify is a dollar diverted from someone truly in need.

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 119. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

