



# MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Carl M. Davis, President  
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May 27, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Oelslager and Callender, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for considering our written testimony in support of Senate Bill 310. SB 310 would distribute \$350 million of federal support from the CARES Act to Ohio counties, municipalities and townships. This is support that is badly needed, and the sooner these funds flow to local communities, the sooner they can help all Ohioans.

County government is working every day to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Counties provide critical services that Ohioans rely upon, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased county costs. The unfortunate outbreak of Covid 19 in a local nursing home and our community at large (72 confirmed cases with 12 deaths and counting in a population of under 14,000) has created a great financial and physical strain on our safety forces. Emergency medical personnel have fallen ill with the virus compounding the problem with overtime and coverage issues.

As costs have increased, county revenues have fallen dramatically. The sales tax is county government's primary revenue source. Ohio has seen significant declines in sales tax collections, that those declines will be felt by county governments through decreased local sales tax distributions. The temporary closure of Ohio's casinos also adds to these losses. . Early reports show Monroe County April sales tax revenues, to be received in June, will be down by 39% over last year. The costs to provide services are increasing while revenues are falling rapidly.

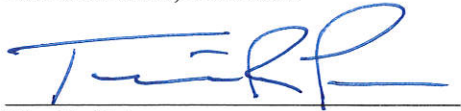
SB 310 is a first step in providing counties support to respond to COVID-19 and begin to rebuild their economies. The federal funds are eligible to offset unbudgeted expenses for public health, human services and public safety employee payroll costs for those employees substantially dedicating toward mitigating COVID-19. The funds may also be used for economic support for to help small businesses with losses not reimbursed by the federal government. These are critical resources needed to bolster county government and reignite our local economy.

We ask that the House move quickly to pass SB 310 and get these funds down to the local level where they can be put to work responding to the pandemic. We thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

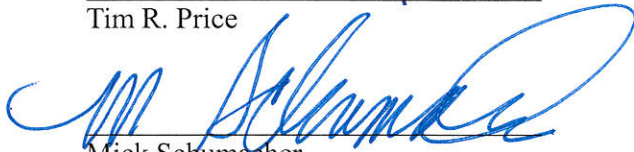
Sincerely,  
Board of Monroe County Commissioners



Carl M. Davis, President



Tim R. Price



Mick Schumacher