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Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Vice Chair
General Government & Agency Review
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
Ways & Means

Special Appointments:

Coal Technical Advisory Committee
Tax Expenditure Review Committee

Tim Schaffer
State Senator, 20th Senate District

House Health Committee
Senate Bill 229—Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday June 2, 2020

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 195.

This bill will help raise awareness to the Diabetes epidemic in Ohio by creating an *Ohio Diabetes Awareness-Heart Connection week* during the second week of November – which is already National Diabetes Month.

Here in the Buckeye state, 1 in 9 adults live with diabetes, representing nearly one million Ohioans. According to CDC estimates, Ohio will spend nearly \$16 billion annually on diabetes costs.

It is important to recognize the strong connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Of note, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and major cause of disability for people living with type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, those with type 2 diabetes are twice as likely to die of heart disease.

Last year, the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Commission on Minority Health and Ohio Department of Administrative Services jointly issued the 2018 Ohio Diabetes Action plan that was required by HB 216 from the 131st General Assembly. This action plan ultimately issued several recommendations including the creation of a diabetes awareness week. I believe that by raising awareness to diabetes and related conditions like cardiovascular disease that we are showing our commitment to follow up on the Ohio Diabetes Action Plan and creating a healthier Ohio.

I am hopeful that this important awareness campaign can move through this chamber as it did in the Senate, where it passed on a unanimous vote and included every senator as a co-sponsor.

Thank you once again, Chairman Lipps and the members of the committee, for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.