

Representative Scott Wiggam
Chair, House State & Local Government
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Delivered via email: Dillon.Barto@ohiohouse.gov



January 21, 2020

The Honorable Representative Wiggam,

The OBL is the foremost trade association for Ohio's banking industry – and is Ohio's only organization focused on meeting the needs of *all banks and thrifts* in the Buckeye State. The non-profit association is comprised of 190 FDIC-insured financial institutions including commercial banks, savings banks, and savings and loan associations ranging in size from just over \$13 million in assets to over \$2.5 trillion. For more than 125 years, the OBL has been the voice of the Ohio banking industry, fostering a cooperation that has made it one of the strongest and most reputable financial trade associations in the country.

On behalf of OBL members, I write to you in support of House Bill 405. This legislation would create a new Linked Deposit program to provide an interest rate reduction on loans used for adoption-related costs in Ohio. The program, which would be operated through the Ohio Treasurer of State's office, is modeled on other similar existing linked deposit programs whereby a family would apply for a loan at their local bank and, once the loan is approved, the Treasurer's office places a deposit with the bank at a below market rate. The savings is then passed along by the bank to the borrower in the form of a reduced interest rate. In this particular linked deposit program, the loan would operate as a line of credit, to be used as costs arise, for a period of five years with the option to extend the line of credit for another five years.

The goal of this bill is laudable, and we applaud the efforts by the sponsor, Representative Jon Cross, and Treasurer of State Robert Sprague to find new and innovative ways to address the financial impact adoption can have on families. As long as the Adoption Linked Deposit program contemplated by this legislation continues to operate similarly to Ohio's other linked deposit programs in terms of the ability and requirements on financial institutions to provide the loans, OBL supports House Bill 405 and OBL's member banks stand ready to assist customers throughout the state in their quest to grow their families through adoption.

For these reasons, we urge you to support House Bill 405. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position at dboyd@ohiobankersleague.com or (614) 340-7608.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Boyd", written in a cursive style.

Don Boyd
State Government Relations Director
& Legislative Counsel