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OHIO

Proponent Testimony for SB 210, Senate Finance Committee, March 3, 2020 – Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Jeff Dillon and I am the Legislative Liaison for Americans for Prosperity Ohio. Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where individuals succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites activists in 35 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

I write this testimony in support of Senate Bill 210, which would eliminate the marriage penalty currently in Ohio's tax code.

One of AFP's many goals is to work toward a tax code that treats all residents fairly and neutrally, regardless of their marital status. The ideal income tax system would be flat and low, as to adequately fund only essential government programs. Senate Bill 210 moves our tax code closer to this ideal by eliminating the marriage penalty so that individuals who choose to marry will not be penalized or rewarded depending on the equity or disparity of their incomes. That Ohio's current tax system treats individuals differently based on whether they are married violates this system of neutrality, and it is fundamentally unfair. AFP – Ohio applauds Senator Roegner's leadership on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today, and for continuing to move SB 210 through the legislative process. I look forward to any questions the committee may have and to continue to work to align Ohio's tax code that provides more economic opportunity for all Ohioans.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 35 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.

