



Proponent Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 10
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

My name is Beth Bickford and I am Executive Director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC). Thank you for this opportunity to present proponent testimony on SCR 10, a concurrent resolution that would approve rules promulgated by the Ohio Department of Health that establish improvement standards for local health districts. AOHC is the trade association representing health commissioners from Ohio's county, combined and city health districts.

As was noted in sponsor testimony, Section 3701.342 of the Revised Code creates a somewhat unique requirement that the legislature must approve, through concurrent resolution, any rules impacting local health district standards. The rule package in question was approved by JCARR back in August of 2018. With the change of administration and the biennial budget, this resolution is just now being brought forward for your consideration. It is important to note that this rule package was agreed upon by the Ohio Department of Health and the AOHC. No objections were brought up at JCARR, and the rules cleared that process quickly.

I know this committee had questions about the origins of this requirement in statute, and its relevance in 2020. Please know that AOHC welcomes dialogue about the requirement itself, but believes that those conversations need to involve both our membership as well as the Ohio Department of Health. Much has changed since the law was amended in 1981 to require this action by the General Assembly, and a full discourse on the pros and cons of the requirement is merited.

With that being said, AOHC does not believe those discussions should take place in the context of this resolution. First, a separate bill would need to be introduced to make any changes to the requirement. As you all know, concurrent resolutions cannot be used to amend the revised code. Second, there are changes in the rules relative to the timing of dispersing state support for local health districts that need to be in effect sooner rather than later. Thus, passage of the concurrent resolution in a timely manner is important. AOHC commits to engaging in the larger conversation with both ODH and any member of the legislature who wishes to have it. But we respectfully request that the concurrent resolution before you, which enacts rules which have been agreed upon by all interested parties, move forward with due expediency.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee might have.