

**Proponent Testimony: Senate Bill 361**  
**Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee**  
**Cory Fleming**  
**Director, Legislative & Political Affairs, Ohio Credit Union League**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 361, which creates a new state linked-deposit program to help make home adoption more affordable for Ohioans.

Ohio's 251 credit unions remain focused on serving the unique needs of all people, families, businesses, and communities. As Ohioans face financial difficulties due to the pandemic, credit unions remain open and available to meet 3.1 million members where they are. The Ohio General Assembly can help credit unions continue providing personalized, individual service by offering additional opportunities to bring families together.

Linked-deposit programs continue to offer Ohioans direct economic and development assistance through the Ohio Treasurer's office, like financing agricultural supplies, home improvements, and small business growth. Senate Bill 361 expands the Treasurer of State's linked-deposit portfolio to empower financial institutions, like credit unions, to facilitate low-cost financing for individuals and parents facing costly adoption requirements.

Due to legislation enacted by the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, Ohio credit unions are currently eligible to participate in Ag-LINK and Business-Link linked-deposit programs and look forward to offering adoption assistance should Senate Bill 361 be enacted.

As member-centric financial institutions committed to living the "people helping people" philosophy, helping children and families come together is in the Ohio credit union wheelhouse. We would like to thank State Treasurer Robert Sprague and Senator Dave Burke for their leadership and creativity in building stronger Ohio families.

Thank you for the opportunity to extend support for Senate Bill 361, and I am happy to answer any questions.