



June 4, 2019

The Honorable Lou Terhar  
Ohio Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215  
RE: SB 139 – Proponent Testimony

Chairman Terhar, Vice Chair Roegner and Ranking Member Williams – good afternoon. My name is John Myers. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 139. I am the 2019 President of the Columbus REALTORS® and have been practicing real estate since 1981. Throughout my 38 years as a licensed professional, I have had the honor of working with numerous first time home buyers.

While much has changed since the early 80's, one thing that has remained consistent are the difficulties facing first time homebuyers. The biggest hurdle being enough money to make that first down payment.

Because of this I was incredibly excited when I learned that the top legislative priority for the Ohio REALTORS® would be the introduction and passage of a First Time Home Buyer Savings Account. I was even more excited when Senators Gavarone and Peterson agreed to be sponsors. I believe this bill will benefit many people here in Ohio.

As a father I have seen these barriers first hand as I watch two of my kids work toward and prepare for the purchase their first home. My oldest has had unexpected medical costs that have delayed his ability to buy a home. He is working diligently to save enough money to own a home and an account like this would only speed up his process.

My other son just graduated from college. This account would be useful for him as he plans for his future. While he is not immediately looking to own a home, opening up an account like this would allow him to save over time, giving him a head start when he is ready to buy.

As an Ohioan, as a REALTOR® and as a father I want people to decide to live here, in Ohio. I believe this bill encourages people to stay here and makes it easier for them to do so. I strongly encourage you to support Senate Bill 139.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. I am able to take any questions you might have.

**Anjanette Frye**, President • **Scott R. Williams**, CEO

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