

Written Testimony
Prepared for
The Ohio Senate
Ways & Means Committee

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, on behalf of the 24,000 members of The Ohio Society of CPAs (OSCPA), we are writing to share our support of H.B. 11, tax conformity legislation.

We commend Rep. Gary Scherer for sponsoring legislation to incorporate into Ohio Revised Code section 5701.11 the federal tax law changes in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) between February 14, 2016 (S.B. 2, 131st GA) and H.B. 11's eventual effective date. We also strongly encourage adding an emergency clause given that the 2017 filing season is nearly at the halfway point already. The OSCPAs has traditionally supported legislation that incorporates federal tax law changes into the Ohio Revised Code to bring conformity to most federal and state tax calculations. H.B. 11 is no exception.

These add-backs are complicated and costly to taxpayers, resulting in increased compliance burden and additional tax liability. Unless the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor again amend the Ohio Revised Code, many taxpayers will have to make "add-backs" on their 2016 income tax returns. Further, timing is critical because CPAs across the state are already engaged in tax preparation for their clients.

The OSCPAs has advocated for tax simplicity for many years. The positive impact of H.B. 11 will be felt by taxpayers throughout our great state in terms of simplifying the tax code and minimizing compliance costs. On behalf of Ohio's CPA community, we strongly urge you to support H.B. 11.