



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
AM. SUB. HB 166
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MAY 21, 2019
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF OHIO

Chairman Dolan, members of the committee, I respectfully submit written testimony in support of increased funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. There are 50 Habitat for Humanity affiliates transforming communities by building, rehabilitating and repairing homes across Ohio.

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund is one of two funding sources from the State of Ohio to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for Ohio families. It provides partial funding to build 20 Habitat for Humanity homes each year. Since 2004, this critical funding helped build over 250 homes in 15 counties for over 700 people. Furthermore, funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund leveraged over \$10 million through volunteer labor, financial contributions and in-kind donations.

Without this support, Habitat for Humanity affiliates would not be able to provide an affordable mortgage to families at a 0% interest rate. Ohio Habitat for Humanity homeowners paid \$3,033,679 last year in property taxes. Simply put, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund is changing lives and improving neighborhoods across this great state.

An affordable place to live helps families by freeing them from such physical and mental hardships and placing them on a path of new opportunity with increased confidence. A decent roof over their heads establishes home as a place that protects — instead of endangering — their health. Habitat for Humanity has helped over 5,000 families in Ohio find strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter. Today, Habitat for Humanity works in 1,400 communities in 70 countries and has provided housing solutions for 13 million people around the world.

On behalf of the 50 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Ohio, thank you for your support and for your consideration of this critical funding for families seeking to live life from a position of strength, stability and self-reliance.