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I am writing today in support of HB 450 and the certificate of transitions when a new officeholder assumes a position. I came into office in March of 2019 and had to get the key to my office from the County Sheriff the same morning that I started, as it wasn't turned into the Sheriff until midnight when the prior officeholder left.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business and have had experience in the past with Government and Non-Profit Accounting so my education and experience have greatly helped me during my term thus far as Auditor, but it would have certainly been nice to keep a consistent office environment, as well as a smooth transition for not only me, but the employees in the office as well.

My first month in office was a challenge and was met with many unforeseen events completely unrelated to my education, experience, and the Ohio Revised Code. I had to sort through, scan, and dispose of almost 5,000 lbs of paper, most of which were stacked around and on top of my desk so that I could barely get to my keyboard. I had my computer system hacked, and without knowing that there were no backup servers or cloud backups put in place prior, I lost a large amount of information. I also had to immediately catch up on deadlines and State submissions, that had been missed for the prior 4 months, since the November election.

While I understand that not every transition can be a smooth one, I do feel that we have a duty to our taxpayers, so that their monies are being used appropriately and responsibly. During difficult transitions, or in my case, lack of a transition, we discovered many areas of negligence mostly because of a "no-care" attitude after the election results had been posted. I find that to be unfair to those taxpayers who could hardly call into the office and get a straightforward answer because we either were trying to sort through the information we had or trying to find information we lost. I believe there are better ways to handle office transitions and I would love to see HB450 passed in order to help those, like me, who are coming into office with a mindset to serve the public and do things the right way.

Thank you for your time and attention,

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