



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**Ohio House Finance Committee  
House Bill 110 – Proponent Written Testimony**

**Tim Bubb  
Licking County Commissioner**

**April 15, 2021**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the House Finance Committee, I write to you today in support of House Bill 110 and the increased appropriations for indigent defense reimbursement provided in the introduced substitute bill. My name is Tim Bubb, and I serve as a Licking County Commissioner and President of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). I thank you for the opportunity to submit written remarks on behalf of the association.

Substitute House Bill 110 signals the House's continued commitment to strengthening the state-county partnership. The substitute bill provides approximately \$8.3 million in FY 2022 and \$12.3 million in FY 2023 in additional funding for indigent defense reimbursement. These investments, in addition to the significant increases provided by Governor DeWine's executive budget proposal, are estimated to provide counties full reimbursement for indigent defense.

Full reimbursement for the counties' indigent defense costs is CCAO's number one legislative priority for this budget. The cost of fulfilling the state's constitutional obligation to provide for indigent defense places considerable strain on a county's general fund budget. Full reimbursement frees counties from this funding mandate and allows counties to deliver other vital services to the constituents they serve. Ohio's counties are truly grateful for the House's investment in this critical area.

CCAO continues to review other changes included in the House substitute bill and how these may impact Ohio's counties. CCAO is committed to partnering with the General Assembly to craft a budget bill that strengthens all 88 counties, the state at-large, and all Ohioans.

Thank you once again to Speaker Cupp, Chairman Oelslager and members of this committee for your continued support of county government as we work in partnership to build Stronger Counties for a Stronger Ohio.

If you have any questions about my testimony or county positions on budgetary issues, please feel free to contact any member of the CCAO policy team.



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