



Testimony in Support of Substitute House Bill 237
Katie Kitchin, Director, Ohio, Corporation for Supportive Housing
December 1, 2022

Chairman Scott Oelslager
Vice Chair Phil Plummer

Ranking Member Bride Rose Sweeney
Members of the House Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Substitute House Bill 237 – an important bill that ensures continued equal revenue distribution to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund for any increases in document recording fees.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) helps non-profits across the state working to create housing solutions for people who would otherwise reside on our streets, and in our jails and hospitals. These are individuals with serious mental illness, substance use challenges, and chronic health conditions. Housing with home-based support solves homelessness and keeps our neighborhoods safer. Failure to house these individuals is costly to state and local governments, disruptive to our communities, and creates long-term harm to those who experience homelessness.

It could happen to any of us, and probably has happened to someone each of us knows and loves. One illness, one traumatic event, the loss of a support system, can send a person spiraling into homelessness.

In the current fiscal year, CSH and its community partners will house 20% fewer people due to dramatic rental increases. The cost of developing housing is at unprecedented high levels, and with rising interest rates forecasted, we will simply not be able to produce as many units with the same amount of dollars. These two factors – tight rental market with rising monthly rents, and a slowing of new unit production based on higher development costs – means more people will become homeless, and stay homeless longer.

You don't have to look far to see what the future holds if we do not intervene now. In states and communities where housing costs escalated and remained far out of reach for most working people, parks fill with tents, children sleep in their cars. This is not hyperbole, this is happening across Ohio today and is poised to get worse.

Ensuring the Ohio Housing Trust Fund continues to receive 50% of all recording fee revenues is an important start. And we must do more. There are dozens of non-profits in Ohio with promising projects that won't be funded without increased state investments. When the opportunity arises, we call on leadership of this Committee to prioritize housing investments – particularly supportive housing and affordable housing for the working poor. We have a once in a generation opportunity to act; to fight homelessness and invest in long-term solutions. What a legacy you could leave.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Kitchin".

Katie Kitchin