



Representatives Jeff LaRe and Adam Bird
Ohio House District 77 and Ohio House District 66

Sponsor Testimony, House Bill 506
Before the House Committee on Government Oversight
February 17, 2022

Rep. Bird

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown, and Members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 506, which will codify the Office of the Solicitor General and the Tenth Amendment Center within the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

The Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The Framers included this guarantee in the Bill of Rights as part of their larger efforts to balance the power of the individual states to govern themselves against the responsibility of the federal government to govern the nation. In recent years, we have seen a dramatic expansion of federal power – a paternalistic, top-down approach to government which all-too-often declares that "one size fits all," when all-too-often, one size does not.

Attorney General Dave Yost took the initiative in creating the Tenth Amendment Center within the AG's office in order to address this growing problem of government overreach, and it is the purpose of HB 506 to enshrine that important check against the federal government's power into the Ohio Revised Code in perpetuity.

Rep. LaRe

The purpose of the Attorney General's Tenth Amendment Center is to monitor federal executive orders and regulations for possible overreach. When a possible overreach is identified, this bill calls for the staff of the Tenth Amendment Center to provide recommendations for possible action to the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General would then advise the Attorney General on actions that may be taken to preserve the sovereignty of Ohio's state and local governments. The bill would require the Attorney General's Office to employ at least one attorney to the Center. A recent example of the work of the Tenth Amendment Center was they were heavily involved in the OSHA vaccine mandate case that would have required private employers to routinely test and vaccinate their employees.



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Codifying the Office of Solicitor General and the Tenth Amendment Center will ensure that executive actions issued by the federal government do not trample upon states' rights as enshrined within the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We bring forth this bill specifically to ensure that the incredibly important processes for monitoring possible federal overreaches are codified within the Ohio Revised Code, rather than left to the pleasure of any future individual serving as Ohio's Attorney General.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 506 today, and are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.