

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the State and Local Government

Thank you for taking into account my testimony in opposition to HB 563 and my own personal story as it relates to this bill.

I grew up and lived on the west side of Cincinnati where I raised my family and took an active role in the community through employment and various volunteer activities.

Three years ago my husband convinced me that we needed to move from the west side to be closer to our extended families living in Symmes Township and West Chester.

The house we purchased in Symmes Township was the only house that I considered looking at after my husband kept showing me listings in other communities. Even though I am an empty nester I didn't want to live in a retirement environment, but instead wanted to stay in a suburban single family neighborhood where I could watch the next generation grow up, share government and have a common cultural and historical heritage.

Little did I know that one year later I would be living next door to a "hotel" wondering who was pulling in and out of the driveway next door every weekend.

Proponents of HB 563 are trying to gain sympathy for their cause when in reality they are pressing ahead with their own agenda. I suggest you check out Pink Cash Cow Property Management and pieceofhomestays.com and determine if this is what suburban neighborhoods will be turning into. By the way, the investors who own the house next door to us also bought another house in our neighborhood to rent on a short term basis as well.

As conditions vary across the state I don't think local governments will be arbitrarily making decisions for homeowners on how to use their homes. They will be making decisions based on what is in the best interests of their particular community. This is why local control is so important so people who have a vested interest in the community can provide a level of protection for the people residing there.

While it may seem logical to have a different business outlook for improving the economy in Ohio, is this really the right thing to impose on people who are trying to support their local schools, churches and community endeavors? Would you want this to happen in your neighborhood?

In closing I would like to point out that this bill is about more than a new way of generating income. It is about freedom, self preservation and self determination that affects all Ohio residents, not just a group of investors.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for reviewing my concerns about HB 563.

Karen Cain