



**OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
OPPOSITION TESTIMONY TO HOUSE BILL 563 | MARCH 9, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and distinguished members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Keary McCarthy, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio’s 30 largest cities. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 563 and share some perspective about this issue from the local level.

First, we oppose this legislation because it conflicts with the municipal home rule authority outlined in Article XVIII, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, which states that: “Municipalities shall have authority to exercise all powers of local self-government and to adopt and enforce within their limits such local police, sanitary and other similar regulations, as are not in conflict with the general laws.” The bill analysis written by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission states in the comment section on page 2 that “The bill may raise an issue under the Ohio Constitution Home Rule Amendment.”

Second, while we appreciate that the bill does provide some limited regulatory authority for local governments, it does not provide enough latitude for local authorities to address short-term rentals that disrupt neighborhoods and adversely impact residential neighborhoods. If a short-term rental is causing significant disruptions that fall outside the specified regulatory framework outlined in the bill, local governments will have little authority to respond to their residents and address what could be a potentially serious disruption to a local community.

As we have demonstrated in the past, local and state leaders can work together on issues where home rule authority and state uniformity may conflict. We have done so in the past on issues such as the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure in municipal rights-of-ways. However, passing legislation such as this that conflicts with Ohio’s Home Rule Authority and is opposed by local government associations is neither prudent nor effective. The state, local governments, residents, and property owners would all be better served by a process that brought the interested parties together, identified the problem, and sought a consensus-driven approach to find a solution.

We would welcome the opportunity to come together with the stakeholders and address the challenges of short-term rental properties in a way that respects both property owners and local communities.