



March 9, 2021

The Honorable Derek Merrin
Ohio House of Representatives, District 47
77 South High St.
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Opposition to H.B. 157

Dear Representative Merrin:

The City of Worthington is writing today to express our staunch opposition to House Bill 157. When Ohio declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, thousands of Ohioans began working remotely and continue to do so today. In response to this unprecedented shift, local governments and business groups came together to advocate for a temporary law change that would allow employers to continue withholding municipal income tax for individuals at their primary place of employment.

The result of this advocacy was the bipartisan approval of House Bill 197. This bill contains a provision that temporarily allows income tax withholding to continue to be withheld at the primary place of business until 30 days after Ohio's State of Emergency order ends. Had the legislature not acted, cities would have seen sudden and dramatic revenue loss. Just as importantly, businesses would have had to begin withholding in all of the different communities in which their employees live. For many employers, this could have meant moving from withholding to one municipality to fifty – an administrative burden in a time when employers were already facing a number of challenges and disruptions.

As we work toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the stability of our local municipalities will be critical to support any economic rebound. Municipalities are not seeking a permanent change in municipal tax code. Simply, we are asking to sustain the temporary provisions that were put in place last year. This is a solution that has been successful for both employers and municipalities.

The current version of House Bill 157 should not be allowed to pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie D. Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie D. Michael
Worthington City Council, President