



**Before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
Ohio REALTORS® Proponent Written Testimony for Senate Bill 110  
March 15, 2021**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Senate Bill 110. On behalf of more than 35,000 Ohio REALTORS®, we support Senate Bill 110 to make a \$465 million appropriation to the Development Services Agency to fund an emergency rental and utility assistance program. We commend Senator O'Brien and Senator Wilson for their quick action on such an important bill and we are grateful to Chair Dolan for moving this legislation expeditiously.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought financial devastation to many across the state. Many Ohioans found themselves unable to pay rent or cover utility payments due to unemployment or underemployment as businesses shuttered.

Housing providers have worked with their tenants who are unable to cover rent to make arrangements for deferred or partial rent payments, or other agreements. But a housing owner still must continue to pay many financial obligations such as insurance, mortgage payments, maintenance, and janitorial staff. When tenants cannot pay rent, especially for several months at a time, the effect is widespread and deep. Senate Bill 110's \$465 million in funding to help renters across the state is critical as Ohioans recover from the devastation that COVID has caused over the past year.

Ohio REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS® have been actively advocating for emergency rental assistance due to COVID-related financial hardship for nearly a year. We appreciate the influx of funding at both the state and federal levels to help Ohioans cover rent and utility liabilities that have been paid directly to housing providers to continue meeting their housing needs. Additionally, quick passage of SB 110 would ensure funds are expeditiously distributed to communities that have immediate needs for more rent and utility assistance.

We support Senate Bill 110 and appreciate the quick movement on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Scott Williams  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio REALTORS®

