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Committees:
Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee
(Chairman)
Primary & Secondary Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Workforce & Higher Education Committee

Michael A. Rulli
State Senator
33rd Senate District

SPONSOR TESTIMONY SENATE BILL 14
Senator Michael A. Rulli
2/1/21

Chairman Gavarone and members of the Local Government and Elections Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 14. Senate Bill 14 will provide a much-needed layer of security for our elections.

This is a reintroduction of SB 194, from the previous General Assembly, which passed unanimously in the Senate. SB 194 also passed out of the House, albeit with an amendment that prevented it from moving forward to be signed into law.

Ohio county boards of elections manage their own elections and control their own voter registration systems. Similar to voting machines, our counties contract with vendors to manage these databases. However, right now there are no standards that vendors need to meet before offering these critical databases to our counties.

The Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners currently sets standards for voting machines, marking devices, tabulating equipment, software, and electronic pollbooks that must be met before a vendor can contract with a county board of elections. Senate Bill 14 will add voter registration databases to that list and allow the appointment of a cybersecurity expert as a non-voting member.

Ohio voters need to have the confidence that their registrations are secure and accurate and our county boards deserve systems that are properly vetted so they can do their jobs

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of this bill, I would be glad to answer any questions from the committee.