

Testimony of Dan Listug
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Chair Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and Members of the Committee, my name is Dan Listug, and I am the Legal and Government Relations Manager of Sourcewell, a Minnesota-based joint purchasing organization serving government agencies in Ohio and across the country.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 260, which would clarify the scope of joint purchasing law for Ohio's political subdivisions.

Joint purchasing is an established procurement tool which has been used by local governments in Ohio since 1997. Last year, over 1,300 agencies in Ohio used a Sourcewell joint purchasing contract. Joint purchasing allows public agencies to utilize contracts competitively awarded by other public agencies. This procurement tool allows local governments to streamline the procurement process, saving both time and resources. Joint purchasing contracts also aggregate volume, which results in lower prices.

For local governments, this means that procurements can be done faster and cheaper while maintaining well-known and established compliance standards. For business serving local governments, joint purchasing streamlines the purchasing process and provides quicker access to more work for local contractors and suppliers.

For smaller projects, this can mean faster access to local contractors, transparent pricing, and quicker completion of time sensitive jobs all done in a compliant way.

SB 260 clarifies the scope of the joint purchasing law to include construction service contracts. The bill effectively addresses an ambiguity with the law created by a 2019 Ohio Attorney General opinion by making clear that publicly solicited contracts awarded by another public agency can be used for these types of services.

Chair Gavarone and Members of the Committee, SB 260 is an important clarification of the joint purchasing law, and Sourcewell respectfully requests your support for the bill.

Thank you again for the chance to provide proponent testimony on behalf of this important legislation.