

Good Afternoon:

Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member, Upchurch and members of the House and Economic Workforce Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mary Vantz and I reside at 78 Duxbury Lane, Brunswick, Ohio. I am here today to voice my support of HB 276 which repeals ORC 5501.6. I would like to explain my strong opposition to the proposed interchange at Rt 71 and Boston Rd.

I am the former Deputy Director for Medina County Job and Family Services. I was a proud public employee for over 30 years. Throughout that time I was responsible for many departments, including Children Services and Adult Protective Services. We had to make extremely difficult decisions that impacted adults and their children. Sometimes families were separated, never to be the same. A common theme in many cases was that many other people were aware of what was happening around them and did little or nothing to intervene. Once the damage was done, there was no going back. They stood silent. We are not standing silent with this issue. Homes will be lost, families or older adults will be forced to find alternative places to live, the environment will forever be drastically changed. All of this among many other consequences, is due to poor planning by another city. Statements have been made that it is being done on behalf of safety and the ability to move traffic more smoothly. The studies have shown this not to be true. Other residents have provided this data to you, as well as Representatives Sharon Ray and Melanie Miller. It is our responsibility to intervene and prevent this distrustful act or we are just as culpable as those who wrote the bill and continue to support it.

My final thoughts on this issue are not sentimental. They are purely economic and realistic. The view from my home in the future will look very different than it does now. It is a quiet and friendly neighborhood. Nothing pretentious, just well maintained homes, owned by hard working and proud people. Medina County has traditionally attracted a diverse population of people who want to move here due to good schools, green space, friendly neighborhoods and overall a great quality of life. If the exchange becomes a reality this will all change. Commercialization of the northern corridor will occur and it will eventually impact the entire county. What family will want to buy a home next to an interchange, gas station or fast food restaurant? The value of the homes will decrease, thus less tax dollars to support our infrastructure. Not to mention the cost of the City of Brunswick attempting to support this enormous expense. Not to appear selfcentered, but I as a single senior citizen will desperately try to sell my home that I have resided in for 28 years and begin the arduous task of looking for somewhere else to live. This isn't sentimentality, this is pure economics.

I would like to thank each of you for your time and employ you to recommend passage of HB 276. If time allows, please visit our area, know we are proud residents

and that we don't want this to happen to any other neighborhood. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

Thank you.

Mary Vantz

78 Duxbury Lane

Brunswick, Ohio 44212