

Committees:

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**Representative Jennifer Gross
The Ohio House of Representatives**

Representative Jennifer Gross – HB 547 Sponsor Testimony: Tuesday June 18, 2024

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for allowing Representative Wiggam and I to provide sponsor testimony for HB 547.

The operating budget allocated \$400 million from our taxpayers over four years for low-income housing tax credits. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that these dollars have no specific requirement for the person awarded this assistance to be a legal resident of Ohio. This bill will require anyone who applies for low-income housing dollars allotted by HB 33 to be a legal resident in the state of Ohio.

Ohio's limited resources need to be prioritized for legal residents to receive benefits with Ohio taxpayer dollars. HB 547 ensures that essential housing is given to those who reside in our state legally.

Paying taxes is a social contract. These dollars should primarily benefit legal residents because they are part of the social contract. Ohio residents pay taxes in exchange for the protection, services, and benefits provided by the government. Assuring that those who receive Ohio taxpayer dollars legally reside in Ohio contributes to the overall wellbeing of Ohio residents, the overall stability of Ohio, and the prosperity of our state.

Thank you again for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony on HB 547. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.