



**State Representative Juanita Brent
22nd House District**

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 573

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and the members of the House Finance Committee: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 573.

HB 573 increases the portion of the state tax revenue going to the Local Government Fund from 1.7% to 3.68%. The Local Government fund is the lifeline that our counties, cities, villages, police, fire, and EMS rely on.

Ohio has the privilege to be in a financial surplus. Now's the time to deliver on our promises to put people first. Increasing the LGF ensures that all our communities have the funds to maintain and improve their safety, security, and quality of life.

Ohio cannot boast about the largest "Rainy Day" fund in our history while cities, villages, and townships struggle to stay afloat. We need to increase the LGF back to its pre-recession levels. Our cities cannot continue to function with the foundation of their support this limited. The current LGF has cities struggling to maintain the essential services they are charged to provide.

House Bill 573 is not just a financial adjustment but a commitment to our communities' future. I respectfully ask for this Committee to support House Bill 573. I am happy to address any questions you may have.