

TESTIMONY OF THE OHIO SENATE

VINCENT L. KEERAN, CLERK

TO THE

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Chair Patton, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the subcommittee, I am Vincent Keeran, Clerk of the Ohio Senate. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present the proposed budget for the Ohio Senate for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

The Senate's budget is comprised of three line items. The General Revenue Fund portion of the Senate budget is used to cover the costs of personnel, maintenance, and equipment. The remaining two line items comprise of member medical reimbursement overages and miscellaneous sales.

The majority of the Senate budget is used to cover the salary and benefits of our thirty three members, staff and pages. The Senate

currently employs approximately 110 staff and 40 pages to assist in the day to day operations of the Senate.

The remainder of the Senate budget is used for maintenance and equipment costs. This includes mileage reimbursement, postage, and IT related purchases.

The Senate is requesting \$20 million for our GRF appropriation in both fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025. The appropriation level for fiscal year 2024 represents a 20.7 percent decrease from our current fiscal year 2023 appropriations.

As with other agencies, the Senate has experienced issues with increased staff turnover. The Senate is working to provide competitive wages to employees, attract new employees and help retain current staff. Historically, the Senate has always assembled an outstanding staff to serve members and their constituencies. We want to invest in our employees for the foreseeable future.

As a public entity, the Senate is accountable to the taxpayers. As such, we look for ways to manage our resources efficiently while at the same time providing for the health, welfare and safety of Ohio's residents.

Chairman Patton, thank you again for the opportunity to present the Senate's budget proposal. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.