

Testimony of Bethany McKenney  
Summit County Council, District 7

In Support of the Homeowners Relief Act, HB 187

To Chair Bill Roemer and Committee Members of the Ways and Means Committee of  
the Ohio House of Representatives

As Summit County Council Representative of District 7, I have received numerous calls from residents of my district of New Franklin, Barberton, Norton, Clinton and Kenmore who are distressed about the average 34% increase in property values. I am deeply concerned for the citizens of my district who may be struggling to stay in their homes and for seniors on fixed incomes. In addition to hearing from citizens who are recently upset about the coming property value increase, I know how sensitive property taxes are to my constituents since I have hosted popular clinics to help qualifying homeowners sign up for the Homestead Exemption, Homeowner Occupancy Credit and Parcel Combines.

Please require the use of the average of the last 3 years of home sales to calculate property values, resulting in a more fair assessment, rather than just the last year! According to Realtor.com, in Summit County, home prices have jumped more dramatically in the last year.

In a letter to the editor in the most recent South Side Leader, Summit County Fiscal Officer Kristen Scalise states, "Summit County does not agree with the recommendation from the State of Ohio Department of Taxation which leans on using only one year of comparable sales. Historically, triennial increases or decreases in value are determined by utilizing sales data from the three years immediately preceding the year in which the values will become effective."

Thank you for your consideration to support H.B. 187 on behalf of the homeowners in Summit County.

Sincerely,

Bethany McKenney  
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District 7  
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