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December 1, 2023

Representative Bill Roemer
Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

RE: HB 274

Dear Chair Roemer:

I write on behalf of the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio to express our support for HB 274 which would establish an enhanced homestead exemption for certain long-term homeowners who qualify for the general homestead exemption.

COA's mission is to enhance lives by assisting people to remain independent through a range of quality services. Our programs and services impact people of all ages and the effects are felt throughout our community. The programs and services we administer which prevent or delay nursing home care for more than 26,000 individuals in our region is important because people want to remain in their homes as long as possible, and our programs and services save the taxpayers.

Legislation introduced by Representatives Mathews and Dell'Aquila, HB 274, which would establish an enhanced homestead exemption of \$50,000 for long-term homeowners would give older Ohians who own their homes an opportunity to remain in their homes. The benefit of maintaining independence, including remaining in your home as you age, is a longer, healthier life. HB 274 will reduce the rising tax burden of homeownership for older adults in Ohio helping to ensure they can continue to live and thrive in the cities, towns, and villages they've lived in and helped to build, while also enriching the community experience for people of all ages. For these reasons, COA supports the passage of HB 274.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Cahall".

Nan Cahall
Director, Government Relations