



**JEAN SCHMIDT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Daniels, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 402 today.

As you know, Ohio saw an unprecedented increase in property valuations in numerous counties across the state. Some county valuations – recommended by the Ohio Department of Taxation and not their local auditor – reached more than 30%. My home county of Clermont saw an increase of 43%.

My office has heard from many people inside and outside of Clermont County about how they are hurting from these increases. They feel it most in their wallets because they are paying a far higher property tax than they've seen before. I hear how some people have to move so they can afford to own a home, while others are afraid they cannot afford their groceries or other necessities because they have to pay their property taxes.

House Bill 402 is a quick remedy to this problem. It would limit the amount of property taxes that a homeowner owes to 2022 levels. I had hoped that this bill would have seen more attention earlier in the General Assembly because it would have provided much needed relief to many across Ohio. I am glad that I can speak on it today because this problem is still going on. These increased values haven't disappeared. People are still hurting.

I believe that there is still some time for us to update the bill and give homeowners the relief they have been asking for in the next year, even if it is temporary. Passing House Bill 402 would give the legislature time to make the longer-lasting, large-scale changes to remedy this problem for good. I encourage all the members of this committee to push relief forward.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.