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**Majority Floor Leader Bill Seitz
The Ohio House of Representatives**

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**Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 114: Allow candidates to pay certain
childcare costs with campaign funds**

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 114. HB 114, legislation that I am joint sponsoring with Representative Humphrey, would allow candidates in Ohio to use campaign funds to pay for the costs associated with childcare.

This legislation is not a new idea—in fact, the Federal Election Commission, in 2018, authorized the use of campaign funds for childcare purposes. Beyond that, 26 other states have already passed similar laws bringing them up to par with the FEC. These states range on the political spectrum from West Virginia to California. By enacting this legislation, Ohio will simply join those 26 other states.

I also note that candidates may only use campaign funds for childcare costs that they would not have otherwise incurred had they decided not to run for office. For example, a candidate could not write off daycare costs had their child already been enrolled in the daycare prior to launching their campaign.

HB 114 passed unanimously out of the House Government Oversight Committee and received strong bipartisan support when the House favorably passed it. I now urge this committee to support this important legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 114. We would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.