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Ohio Senate

RE: Testimony for SB 91

Dear Honorable Senate Members

I am writing this testimony in favor of the passing of Senate Bill (SB) 91 because I continually see first hand what fraud, including the misuse and misappropriation of public money by public officials causes.

First my background:

1. I have been a Fiscal Officer for the Village of South Zanesville for over 16 years.
2. I have been a Visiting Clerk, Fiscal Officer, mainly in southeast Ohio for over 6 years. This work is a contract position with the State Auditor's Office (AOS) and entities that request Fiscal responsibilities assistance. Currently I am assisting entities in 11 Counties and working closely with the AOS's Local Government Services Division.
3. In the many entities I have helped they are in Fiscal Emergency, Fiscal Watch, or Fiscal Distress.

What I have helped correct was all of the functions SB 91 would touch. Such as fraud, misuse and/or misappropriations of public money, Taxpayers Money, by Public Officials.

The importance of SB 91 passing is the requirement that Public Officials are required to take training not only in what not to do but on how to report the observance of suspected Fraud and/or misuse/misappropriations for public Funds. This was started a few years ago when House Bill 66 was passed but with the increase in these findings that bill needs to be enhanced with what is in SB 91.

When these training Materials are created and made law they should be mandatory as should Ethics Training and Public Records Training either on line or in person. No designees should be allowed to take these required trainings for the Public Officials. Currently Public Records training can be taken by a designee.

In closing, I wish I could be testifying in person on the importance of passing SB 91 so that I could relay examples of what needs to be done to clean up Fraud, misuse or misappropriated funds, and "YES" even Dereliction of duties caused by a person not accomplishing the required work to ensure Fiscal Responsibility of Tax Payer's money.

Respectfully
Chris Kerby – Fiscal Officer
Village of South Zanesville
Visiting Clerk/Fiscal Officer