



**JEAN SCHMIDT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairwoman O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

Thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 101. This bill is an important piece of legislation that will help to clarify the process of village dissolution. This bill does not change the process for voters to decide on village dissolution, but rather this bill puts a better process into place to dissolve the village over a period of time and ensure there is a proper accounting and transfer of its assets and debts.

Representative Bird and I are no strangers to this issue. Clermont County has seen two villages dissolve: Amelia and Newstonsville. Those processes were not easy going and there was difficulty in finalizing the dissolution. It is our hope that we can avoid these issues by clarifying this process for the villages, townships, and counties that may be involved.

This bill creates a transition advisory board to oversee the transfer of assets and help settle any outstanding issues or questions the village may face. This includes the transfer of property and assets, finalizing any business, and ensuring that the village's utility services are functioning before being handed over, among other things.

We are not here to say whether or not a village can or cannot dissolve. We just want to make it easier to transition once dissolution has occurred. This bill passed with overwhelming support in the House, and we look forward to your support in getting this bill passed here in the Senate.

Thank you for your time.