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**Ohio Senate Local Government Committee  
House Bill 101  
Proponent Testimony  
David Painter, Clermont County Commissioner**

Chairwoman O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, my name is David Painter. I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and a current commissioner in Clermont County. I want to thank you in advance for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 101 and the amendments being proposed today.

HB 101 is in direct response to the challenges incurred in my county due to the dissolution of the Village of Amelia located in Batavia and Pierce Townships due to the citizen's elective process. The dissolution of Amelia was the first time the State Auditor's office had to equitably divide the assets of a village between two townships. The challenge resulted when current Ohio legislation was found to contain inadequate prescriptive details to result in an equitable and timely closure process for new ownership to both townships. HB 101 before you today will correct this inadequacy and allow timely closure to the dissolution process with one exception concerning the color of money.

I use the term, "color of money" here today to describe revenue received by a township derived by taxes, special assessments, or other State identified funding sources that can only be used to settle these corresponding existing accounts. Today's amendment request will allow revenue available after settlement of the corresponding accounts to be deposited into the general fund making it "one color of money" thus allowing settlement of other debts and accelerating the process to certify the completion of the dissolution process. The amendment follows the "Kiss" or keep it simple process.

In closing, I will like to re-emphasize the involvement of County Commissioners in the dissolution process. Citizens look to their commissioners to resolve the challenges they encounter with government. Allowing commissioners to participate in the Transition Supervisory Board (TSB) provides citizens confidence that their elective decision to dissolve a village will be managed to closure.

I would like to thank Representative Bird and Representative Schmidt for recognizing the need for this legislation and for researching the details, listening to their citizens and reaching out to the townships, villages and Clermont County Commissioners to ensure the



will of people is outlined in effective legislation. I respectfully ask this committee to favorably report House Bill 101.

Thank you for your time, your patience, your participation and your service to the Great State of Ohio.