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Senate Local Government Committee
Senate Bill 300 Sponsor Testimony
Require certain property fees be allocated for housing purposes
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Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora and members of the Senate Local Government Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 300, which should be seen as adding another tool to the Ohio housing toolbox.

The legislation designates that if a county decides to increase the rate of the real property transfer tax those additional dollars must be placed into a new fund, administered by each County Treasurer, called the County Housing Fund. The County Housing Fund can be utilized for first-time homebuyer assistance, low income housing, disability housing and transition housing.

Let me share some data on three of the four categories to help suggest that SB 300 if needed legislation.

Regarding Low-Income Housing, according to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency the 2024 Ohio Housing Needs Assessment Report, "There has been a net loss of affordable rental housing for the lowest income Ohioans. There are 447,717 extremely low-income (ELI) renters in Ohio, but only 177,318 rental homes are affordable and available to them – leaving a shortage of 270,399 units.

The affordability gap between supply and demand for the lowest income renters is now widening with a net loss of more than 15,000 affordable units between 2020 and 2021."

Regarding Disability Housing: According to the Ability Center's 2022 Ohio Statewide Disability Needs survey 28% of survey respondents said there isn't affordable housing in the area where they want to live. 82% state there is not enough accessible housing in Ohio.

Regarding Transition Housing. First of all this category can encompass a variety of types of special needs housing. I want to focus on housing needed for domestic violence survivors. According to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in 2023, ODVN member agencies provided emergency shelter for 9,707 survivors including 3,743 children. But 8,194 survivors were turned away because of lack of housing leaving them dangerously exposed to additional violence and family trauma.

Members of the Local Government Committee, Senate Bill 300 can help. It is a small step in the right direction to help Ohio shelter those most in need of housing. I greatly appreciate your

concern for all Ohioans and your attention to this matter and would be happy to answer any question you might have.