



**Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19<sup>th</sup> District**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Senate Bill 300 – Sponsor Testimony**

Chair O'Brien, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for affording Senator Smith and me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 300. This bill would establish county Housing Trust Funds across the state of Ohio.

Back in June, this general assembly passed my Senate Bill 94. The bill was heavily amended in the House, but the original language provided funding to modernize records with county recorders. There was concern that the bill would divert funding from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. This concern is elevated by a decrease in collected revenue to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund from 2022-2024.

That is why I and Senator Smith came together to sponsor Senate Bill 300. This legislation would create the County Trust Fund in each county across the state for the purpose of funding low-income, disability, and transition housing as well as first-time homebuyers. Funds for each county would come from county conveyance fees, as the bill is currently written. After discussion with interested parties on this bill, we are also open to and exploring alternative funding mechanisms that I and my joint sponsor will soon discuss.

Senator Smith and I feel this legislation is needed to help combat the growing housing crisis Ohio continues to face. As you know, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund helps to provide to homeless shelters, supportive housing operations, repairs and modifications for low-income homeowners, and transition housing and rehabilitation. The creation of these County Trust Funds will continue to help provide crucial dollars to those who need them most and aid young people in taking the exciting step of purchasing a home for the first time.

Chair O'Brien, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member DeMora, and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, it is my hope that this bill will help to provide funding for housing to those who need it most. Thank you again for hearing my testimony on this important issue. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee members may have.