



OHIO STATE CORONERS ASSOCIATION

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November 19, 2024

Honorable Sandra O'Brien, Chair
Ohio Senate Local Government Committee
Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman O'Brien,

On behalf of the Ohio State Coroners Association (OSCA), we write to you today as proponents of House Bill 315. Specifically, this bill, in its current form, contains a provision that reinstates funding for Ohio's Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program.

The program provides an opportunity for local governments to apply for reimbursement for the cost of providing burials or cremations to indigent deceased persons. Indigent burials are the responsibility of local government entities. The program may reimburse the local government entity the actual costs charged or contracted by a funeral home to perform up to a maximum of \$1,000 for an adult and up to a maximum of \$750 for a child. Only local government entities are eligible to apply for reimbursement from the program.

In the most recent state budget, the operational funding for the program itself remained, but the appropriation of \$1 million annually was zeroed out. The lack of funding in the state budget does not provide the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors with ability to reimburse local government entities for the cost of providing burials or cremations to indigent deceased persons and consequently suspended the program as of July 1, 2023. We hope to have the funds reinstated House Bill 315 to provide some assistance to local governments, particularly townships, for these expenses.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David P. Corey
Executive Director