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**PROPONENT TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 315**

To: Ohio Senate Local Government Committee  
Fr: Chip McConville, Knox County Prosecuting Attorney  
Dt: November 18, 2024

Chairman O'Brien, Ranking Member DeMora, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 315.

As legal counsel to the 22 townships in Knox County, I am frequently asked questions about the necessity of advertising certain actions in a "newspaper of general circulation." Almost as frequently, I am met with surprise from trustees and fiscal officers as to why it is required in this era of electronic communications.

Obviously, keeping the public informed about the actions of local governments is a vital concern. However, providing flexibility to townships about how they disseminate that information is equally important. House Bill 315 is drafted to provide three options to township trustees in every circumstance where public notice is required under township statutes. This consistency will help to ensure that township officials know and follow the law.

Providing the option of allowing notice through township websites and social media would enable township to save taxpayer dollars on advertising expenses. It would also streamline the process of advertising. In Knox County, we have only one "newspaper of general circulation," which is published weekly. Given production deadlines, this works to increase the amount of time required to hold meetings and take action on issues important to the public.

In addition to the language concerning public notices, I would also like to voice support for the \$1 million appropriation for Indigent Burial and Cremation Support. Since the pandemic, my office has fielded more questions about indigent burials than ever before. Townships who have never experienced this issue are sometimes unaware of their responsibilities to facilitate and fund these burials. Any support the legislature can give to fund these expenses would be greatly appreciated.

Senate Local Government Committee

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I ask that you take action to pass H.B. 315 before the end of this legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles T. McConville  
Prosecuting Attorney