



Ohio Funeral Directors Association

**2501 North Star Road
Columbus, OH 43221
(614) 486-5339**

OFDAonline.org

November 19, 2024

The Honorable Sandra O'Brien
Chair, Senate Local Government
Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 315

Dear Chairwoman O'Brien,

On behalf of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association (OFDA) and our more than 3,000 funeral professionals across the State of Ohio, we write to you today as proponents of Substitute 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 in Substitute House Bill 315 to provide some assistance to local governments, particularly townships, for these expenses to care for their communities.

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

Andrew Allman, CAE
Executive Director

Steve Hartwig
OFDA President