



**Assistant Minority Leader
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Ways and Means Committee
Senate Bill 271 Sponsor Testimony
Senator Hearcel F. Craig
Senator Louis Blessing III
June 12, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Blessing, Vice-Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 271. This crucial piece of legislation aims to provide much-needed financial relief to our fellow Ohioans through a refundable income tax credit or rebate for homeowners and renters. Specifically, this bill targets those whose property taxes or a portion of their rent exceed five percent of their income.

As many of you are aware, the burden of property taxes can be overwhelming, particularly for those on fixed incomes or with modest earnings. Ohio families should not have to choose between paying their property taxes or putting food on the table. Senate Bill 271 addresses this by implementing a system commonly known as a "circuit breaker."

The implementation of this circuit breaker system is particularly significant for Ohio. In our state, property taxes are a primary source of funding for essential services like education, public safety, and infrastructure. While these services are vital, we must also recognize the disproportionate impact that high property taxes can have on individuals with lower incomes.

By enacting this legislation, we are taking a balanced approach that safeguards both our citizens and our community services. We are committed to ensuring that no Ohioan is unfairly penalized by an excessive tax burden. Senate Bill 271 is a step towards equity and fairness, ensuring that our tax system works for all citizens, not just those at the top. It provides necessary relief and support to those who need it most, fostering a more inclusive and supportive community.

I would like to thank my esteemed colleague and joint sponsor, Senator Louis Blessing III, for his support and dedication for this bill. By voting in favor of this bill, you are voting to protect Ohio families, to promote economic stability, and to create a fairer tax system. Members of the

committee, thank you very much for the consideration of this bill and the chance to provide testimony. I would be happy to take any questions at this time.