

BUDGET TESTIMONY FOR THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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CHAIRMAN STEWART AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027.

OUR BUDGET IS COMPRISED OF THREE LINE ITEMS. THE FIRST LINE ITEM IS THE 321 GRF ACCOUNT. THIS ACCOUNT IS USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, INCLUDING PAYROLL. THE HOUSE IS REQUESTING \$37,300,000 IN THIS ACCOUNT FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR. THIS REPRESENTS A 0% INCREASE IN THE APPROPRIATION FOR THIS BIENNIUM.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OVER 90% OF OUR SPENDING GOES TOWARDS PAYROLL EXPENSES. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NON-PAYROLL-RELATED SPENDING GOES TOWARDS:

- TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURES
- MILEAGE
- POSTAGE
- PRINTING EXPENSES

THE SECOND LINE ITEM IS THE 601 REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT. THIS ACCOUNT WAS ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE REFUNDS FROM DAS FOR OVERPAYMENTS OF MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 101.272. IT MAY ALSO BE USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES. LIKE MOST EMPLOYERS, THE HOUSE IS ANTICIPATING THE COST OF HEALTHCARE RATES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND STAFF TO INCREASE IN THE UPCOMING BIENNIUM.

THE THIRD LINE ITEM IS THE 602 SALES ROTARY ACCOUNT. THIS IS THE ACCOUNT THAT HOUSE MEMBERS USE TO PURCHASE ITEMS SUCH AS FLAGS, FRAMES, PRESENTATION FOLDERS AND SEALS. AS MEMBERS PURCHASE MERCHANDISE, THEIR PAYMENTS ARE DEPOSITED BACK INTO THIS ACCOUNT. THE HOUSE IS REQUESTING A \$50,000 APPROPRIATION. THIS REPRESENTS A 0% INCREASE FOR THIS BIENNIUM.

THE HOUSE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN VERY MODEST IN ITS SPENDING. WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND MAXIMIZE THE DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO US.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.