

**TESTIMONY OF THE OHIO SENATE**

**VINCENT L. KEERAN, CLERK**

**TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the committee, I am Vincent Keeran, Clerk of the Ohio Senate. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present the proposed budget for the Ohio Senate for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

The Senate's budget is comprised of three line items. The General Revenue Fund portion of the Senate budget is used to cover the costs of personnel, maintenance, and equipment. The remaining two line items are comprised of member medical reimbursement overages and miscellaneous sales.

Most of the Senate budget is used to cover the salary and benefits of our thirty-three members, staff and pages. The Senate currently employs approximately 110 staff and 40 pages to assist in the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

The remainder of the Senate budget is used for maintenance and equipment costs. This includes mileage reimbursement, postage, and IT related purchases.

The Senate is requesting \$27 million for our GRF appropriation in both fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027. The appropriation level in each line item represents a zero percent from our current FY 25 appropriations.

The Senate is working to provide competitive wages to employees, attract new employees and help retain our current legislative aides. Historically, the Senate has always assembled an outstanding staff to serve members and their constituencies. We want to invest in our employees for the foreseeable future.

As a public entity, the Senate is accountable to the taxpayers. As such, we look for ways to manage our resources efficiently while at the same time providing for the health, welfare, and safety of Ohio's residents.

Chairman Stewart, thank you again for the opportunity to present the Senate's budget proposal. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.