MICHAEL D. DOVILLA
17TH DISTRICT

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Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives
Columbus

VERN RIFFE CENTER
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 13TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-6111

T: (614) 466-4895

REP17@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

Sponsor Testimony of Representative Mike Dovilla
Regarding Federal Zero Based Budgeting (House Concurrent Resolution 32)
Before the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 32.

This resolution is closely related to House Bill 645, which I just presented. While that legislation focuses on implementing periodic zero-based budgeting for Ohio's state budget, House Concurrent Resolution 32 urges Congress to consider adopting a similar approach at the federal level.

As the resolution notes, the federal government primarily relies on traditional budgeting practices that build upon prior year spending levels. Zero-based budgeting instead requires agencies to construct their budgets from the ground up and justify each expenditure according to the mission and objectives of the agency.

The resolution also highlights legislation introduced by Senator James Risch of Idaho. The *Zero-Based Budget Act* (S. 181) would:

- Require federal agencies to provide a zero-based budget every six years;
- Reduce spending levels by two percent;
- Remove the assumption that current activities and funding are automatically continued; and
- For national security purposes, exempt the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration from these requirements.

Co-sponsored by seven U.S. senators, this proposal represents an important step toward strengthening congressional oversight of federal spending and encouraging a more disciplined review of federal programs and priorities.

House Concurrent Resolution 32 simply expresses the view of the Ohio General Assembly that Congress should give serious consideration to adopting this reform as a way to promote transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in the federal budgeting process.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 32. I would be happy at this time to address any questions you may have.