



Representative Tex Fischer
59th Ohio House District

Chairman Hall, Vice Chairman Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and member of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 42, which would require the Governor's office to submit a report to the General Assembly of citizenship data collected by various government agencies.

The state of Ohio requires a wide array of demographic data to be collected by schools, prisons, and other entities; but there is currently no provision in Ohio law to require these entities to collect data on citizenship status. Our legislation simply requires these entities add citizenship status to their pre-existing demographic data collection requirements.

Under this bill, law enforcement agencies and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction will be required to collect data on the citizenship status of all people who are arrested and submit it to the Governor's office by February 28th of each year. Public schools will also be required to collect this data at the point of enrollment.

This bill would also require the Department of Jobs and Family Services and Department of Medicaid to collect citizenship data about households of those receiving benefits and those enrolled in their respective programs.

To be clear, this legislation will place no restriction on any Ohioan who is currently enrolled in any of these programs or receives these benefits. The citizens of Ohio have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. This bill allows us to take a step forward in painting the full picture of where our public funds are going.

Thank you again for allowing me give sponsor testimony on House Bill 42, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

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www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-6107
FAX: 614-719-3959
Email: rep59@ohiohouse.gov