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**JCARR BUDGET TESTIMONY**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**February 12, 2025**

Chairman Thomas, Vice-Chairman Mathews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn and members of the House Judiciary Committee.

My name is Greg Fouche, and I am currently serving as Interim Director of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony today in support of JCARR's budget request for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 contained in the upcoming state budget bill.

JCARR was created by the General Assembly in 1977 and consists of five House and five Senate members. Overseen by House and Senate Co-Chairs, the committee retains the same powers as other standing committees of the legislature and meets approximately once every three weeks including times when the General Assembly is on recess.

The primary role of JCARR is to review all proposed new, amended, and rescinded administrative rules as well as No Change Rules filed pursuant to five-year-rule review from over 100 state agencies, boards, and commissions to ensure that they do not exceed their rule writing authority granted to them by the General Assembly. Based on data from the last five years, JCARR on average reviews approximately 3,400 administrative rules a year.

In addition to JCARR's rule review duties over the last biennium, JCARR has continued its work to help advise and assist agencies subject to regulatory restriction reductions in meeting their required benchmarks. The JCARR staff has also continued its efforts to improve the Electronic Rule Filing System, RuleWatch Ohio, and the JCARR website, all of which assists agencies in filing their rules and also helps members of the public who wish to follow and comment on rules through the rule-making process. Our office also administers Cut Red Tape Ohio, a

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website that allows Ohio citizens, business owners, and other stakeholders to submit comments on rules affecting their lives and work directly to JCARR.

JCARR respectfully requests an appropriation of \$620,000 for both FY 2026 and 2027. This appropriation will allow JCARR to maintain its four member staff and continue to meet its rule review responsibilities. This request does not represent any increase in funding from FY 2025.

Thank you Chairman Thomas and members of the committee for your time and consideration and I would be willing to answer any questions you may have.