

**STATEMENT OF THE
OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 260**

Before the House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Jim Thomas, Chair

Chairman Thomas, Vice-Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Judiciary Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio State Bar Association (Ohio Bar).

My name is Mary Amos Augsburger, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio Bar. The Ohio Bar is pleased to support House Bill 260. The Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution was approved by the voters in 1968. Among other changes, it struck a balance between the judicial and legislative branches to meet the needs of the judiciary, giving the Ohio Supreme Court the authority to promulgate procedural rules and granting the General Assembly the power to reject the proposed rules by a concurrent resolution of disapproval.

Despite this defined constitutional structure, there remain conflicts between the Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Ohio Revised Code. These conflicts cause confusion for practitioners and parties and lead to unnecessary conflicts that must be resolved by courts.

House Bill 260 helps to address those issues by making corrections to the Ohio Revised Code to ensure that our statutes are consistent and do not conflict with what is required by the Rules of Practice and Procedure. We commend the bill sponsors and the Ohio Supreme Court for working together to take a proactive step forward that will affirm appropriate checks and balances, bring legal clarity and ultimately, improve the operation of our courts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.