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Good afternoon, Chair Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 266, which seeks to provide temporary property tax relief for homeowners across Ohio. The rising cost of property taxes has become one of the most prevalent concerns I hear from my constituents, and I'm sure it is a concern shared by many of you as well. It's an issue that affects homeowners of all types, but especially families who are finding it more difficult to stay in their homes due to the increasing tax burden.

As we continue to work on long-term reforms to the property tax system through changes to the Ohio Revised Code, House Bill 266 offers immediate relief to Ohio homeowners. This bill would grant a \$300 tax credit to any homeowner who has lived in their property for at least one year, with the credit being provided annually over the next five years. This is a temporary measure that will help ease the financial strain on homeowners while we continue to explore lasting solutions to the property tax issue.

For many of my constituents, these tax increases are a significant challenge. This \$300 credit will provide some much-needed financial relief and give homeowners a bit of breathing room as we work on broader, structural reforms to address the root causes of rising property taxes.

House Bill 266 is an important first step in ensuring that Ohioans are not burdened by taxes they simply cannot afford. I believe that by passing this bill, we can provide immediate assistance to homeowners who are struggling, while also sending a message that we are committed to addressing this issue seriously.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this bill, and I look forward to working with you all to provide lasting relief to Ohio homeowners.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions you may have.