

BUDGET TESTIMONY FOR THE OHIO SENATE

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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CHAIR CIRINO AND MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE,

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027.

THE OHIO HOUSE HAS 99 ELECTED STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND MORE THAN 230 FULL- AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES. OUR BUDGET IS COMPRISED OF THREE LINE ITEMS. THE FIRST LINE ITEM IS THE 321 GRF ACCOUNT. THIS ACCOUNT IS USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, INCLUDING PAYROLL FOR MEMBERS AND STAFF. THE HOUSE IN ITS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE REQUESTED \$37,300,000 FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR WHICH WAS A 0% INCREASE FROM THE LAST BIENNIUM. HOWEVER, AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, WE ARE NOW REQUESTING \$35,100,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND \$36,210,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. THIS REPRESENTS A TOTAL REDUCTION OF \$3.29 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM.

OVER 90% OF OUR SPENDING GOES TOWARDS PAYROLL & HEALTHCARE EXPENSES. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NON-PAYROLL-RELATED SPENDING GOES TOWARDS:

- TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURES
- MILEAGE
- POSTAGE
- PRINTING EXPENSES

THE SECOND LINE ITEM IS THE 601 REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT. THIS ACCOUNT WAS ESTABLISHED TO RECEIVE REFUNDS FROM DAS FOR OVERPAYMENTS OF MEDICAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 101.272. IT MAY ALSO BE USED FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES. LIKE MOST EMPLOYERS, THE HOUSE IS ANTICIPATING THE COST OF HEALTHCARE RATES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND STAFF TO INCREASE.

THE THIRD LINE ITEM IS THE 602 SALES ROTARY ACCOUNT. THIS IS THE ACCOUNT THAT HOUSE MEMBERS USE TO PURCHASE ITEMS SUCH AS FLAGS, FRAMES, PRESENTATION FOLDERS AND SEALS. AS MEMBERS PURCHASE MERCHANDISE, THEIR PAYMENTS ARE DEPOSITED BACK INTO THIS ACCOUNT. THE HOUSE IS REQUESTING A \$50,000 APPROPRIATION. THIS REPRESENTS A 0% INCREASE FOR THIS BIENNIUM.

THE HOUSE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN MODEST IN ITS SPENDING, AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WE ARE HOLDING TO THAT PATTERN. WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND MAXIMIZE THE DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO US. THIS BUDGET ALLOWS THE HOUSE TO MAINTAIN FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT OPERATIONS THAT MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER SERVE OHIOANS AND OUR EXEMPLARY STAFF.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION OF THIS REQUEST. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.