



Good Afternoon,

My name is Kelsey Fox and I have the pleasure of serving as President of the Board of the Delaware County Housing Alliance. The Delaware County Housing Alliance is a county-wide organization comprised of community leaders, government officials, private and nonprofit organizations, and concerned citizens who seek to address housing insecurity with the goal of ending chronic housing instability and increasing the availability of safe, affordable, quality housing for all.

I am here today to express support for SB250. As the number of housing cost burdened Delaware County residents and Ohioans across the state continues to increase, faith communities and non-profits have a unique opportunity to play a role in increasing access to housing. We have a unique challenge in Delaware County, where traditional pathways to building affordable housing are less available to us.

I would like to share with you a real life scenario in my own neighborhood as an example of what types of projects would be supported by this bill. Zion African Methodist Episcopal church is situated in the South Side of the City of Delaware. This area continues to recover from the negative impacts of red lining practices and is located next to Woodward Elementary school, which has the highest percentage of students receiving free or reduced lunch in Delaware County at 50.4%. To rehabilitate the church's former parish into affordable housing, an estimated \$150,000. While development continues to boom in Delaware County, this neighborhood has few opportunities to reap the benefits of this growth. Small infill projects for Missing Middle housing create opportunity for families and businesses in this neighborhood to grow and thrive while maintaining all the things about the neighborhood that make it special.

The Promise Land bill will provide vital resources for visions such as this one and create opportunities for others to dream bigger for their communities. The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio recently shared the results of their Central Ohio Housing Survey and found that 85% of Central Ohio residents support allowing nonprofits, churches, and colleges to build housing on their land. Only 4% of residents "strongly opposed" this proposal.

We are moving past the days of "Not In My Backyard" and into the time of "Yes In God's Backyard". This movement gives faith communities, secular nonprofits, and educational institutions greater ability to build homes for the people they serve. SB 250 serves an important role in ensuring Ohioans have safe housing that they can afford.