



Mayor Kim A. Thomas
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March 11, 2025

Chairwoman O'Brien and Members of the Committee. My name is Kim Thomas, Mayor of the city of Richmond Heights.

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 104. I appreciate your time and consideration regarding this critical issue that directly affects our community.

SB 104 poses a significant threat to local governance by severely restricting our ability to regulate short-term rentals. This proposal is not just a matter of policy; it represents a clear violation of our municipal home rule authority.

Local governments are best positioned to determine what is in the best interest of their communities and their citizens

We have witnessed firsthand the challenges posed by unregulated short-term rentals in our area. Our residents have experienced increased noise disturbances, leading to excessive noise, parking issues, and disruptive parties, resulting in additional calls to our police department. These properties often operate more like hotels than part of our residential fabric, and disturbances impact the quality of life for our residents. Furthermore, the influx of short-term rentals has raised serious security concerns.

Our residents expect and deserve a level of control over zoning and land use matters, including the regulation of short-term rentals. It is essential that we maintain the tools necessary to address these pressing concerns effectively.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject SB 104, ensuring that local governments retain the authority needed to manage short-term rentals in a way that protects our residents and enhances our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim A. Thomas".

Kim A. Thomas, Mayor
City of Richmond Heights, Ohio