City of Parma, Ohio

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Ohio Senate Workforce Development Committee

Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB311. As the Law Director for Parma, Ohio's seventh largest city, I want to express just how important this legislation would be to our community. For over a century, Parma has owned and operated Ridgewood Golf Course in the center of our city. In an era where some cities need to sell their assets to balance their budgets or sell city owned property to eager developers, Parma has steadfastly held and protected Ridgewood Golf Course as property available to our residents and the entire community.

Over the past several years, Parma's community leaders have worked collaboratively to develop and construct a state-of-the-art Ridgewood Golf Club and Event Center at Ridgewood Golf Course. The new facility has community meeting space, event pavilions, golf simulators, and the Flamingo Pub, which will serve both golfing and non-golfing patrons, replacing the archaic and dilapidated golf course club house. However, under current Ohio law pertaining to the compensation of public employees, finding skilled staff to run the operations and service aspects has become challenging.

SB311 recognizes the unique challenges that governmental entities have in filling hospitality positions at their facilities. To attract the talent to work at publicly owned facilities, including the Ridgewood Golf Course, the ability to properly compensate our hospitality workers is essential. Passing this bill will allow Parma to properly staff our new Event Center and continue to provide a quality recreational experience for the public, worthy of our beautiful golf course.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this important piece of legislation and I urge you to support this pending legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott M. Tuma
Law Director/Chief Prosecutor
City of Parma