



City of North Royalton

Dan Langshaw
Ward 3 Councilman

**North Royalton Ward 3 Councilman Dan Langshaw
Amended Senate Bill 310 Testimony
Ohio House Finance Committee
May 19, 2020**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Callender, Ranking Member Cera, and committee members. My name is Dan Langshaw and I am the Ward 3 Councilman on the North Royalton City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Amended Senate Bill 310 that would provide federal COVID-19 funding to local governments that is now before the Ohio House for consideration.

We are living in unprecedented times here in Ohio, in the United States, and our world due to COVID-19 pandemic. The residents I serve and all Ohioans need your help to ensure that local governments like North Royalton have the urgent funding we need to respond to this war on COVID-19. Unfortunately, the United States Congress has been slow to provide direct aid to local governments and we cannot wait any longer for them to pass legislation to give us funding. Lives are at stake in our communities.

My community of North Royalton is located in Cuyahoga County. According to Ohio Department of Health data as of yesterday has over 3,410 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 871 hospitalizations, and sadly over 175 people have died due to COVID-19. What is further alarming the Cuyahoga County Board of Health reported last Friday May 15th that my area has about 104-162 confirmed cases of COVID-19. On top of the loss of life, continued threat of the virus, and now we are facing major economic hardship due to the negative impact on so many of our small family run businesses. The COVID-19 economic impact is already being felt here in North Royalton. So our Mayor has proposed about \$1.6 million dollars' worth of budget cuts to ensure that we continue to operate as a local government and ensure we are able to continue to provide basic services to keep our residents safe. That is why I urge you to expedite approving SB 310.

SB 310 would disperse \$350 million through the Local Government Fund (LGF) formula in a separate distribution fund to be used only for non-budgeted COVID-19-related expenses per the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Under the bill, park districts would not receive any of this allocation, nor would the five counties and one municipality with populations over 500,000 that received the CARES Act's direct distributions. The remaining funds, up to \$850 million, would be held in reserve by the state for a second round of funding. I am a firm believer that by allocating a large portion of the CARES Act funds to Ohio's local governments will provide the immediate emergency relief we all need. It will even help save more fellow Ohioans lives too.

If the United States Congress eventually does provide greater flexibility to state and local governments for the use of CARES Act funds or future funds, I would recommend the second phase of funding to also allow for local government revenue replacement based on specific community needs. I urge the Ohio General Assembly to ensure all of the remaining \$850 million is dedicated to and used exclusively by local governments.

I am a United States Army Veteran, I view this truly believe we need to view this COVID-19 pandemic as war. It is we the local governments are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic that our dedicated first-responders and residents are counting us to have the resources we need to effectively fight back and win this war on COVID-19.

SB 310 will help ensure local governments will get the immediate emergency relief we desperately need! I would like close by personally thanking Senator Matt Dolan who represents my community in the Ohio Senate, who has gone above and beyond with creating SB 310 to have a fast and a fair distribution formula for these critical federal funds and helping start the COVID-19 recovery process here in Ohio. Please approve SB 310 as soon as possible!

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for my residents. If you have any follow up questions I can be reached at 440-785-4240 or at ward3@northroyalton.org

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