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**Representative Mike Loychik  
The Ohio House of Representatives**

HB 168 – Rep. Mike Loychik, Sponsor Testimony, Wednesday March 9th, 2021

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and Members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 168.

This is one of the coronavirus relief bills designed to give vital assistance and aide to the many parts of the State and our constituents. This bill would appropriate Coronavirus Relief Funds that the State has received from the Federal Government and has jurisdiction in how they are spent in addition to funds from the GRF.

This bill would give local fairs, \$4,700,000, which would mirrors funding for fairs earlier in FY 21 and would provide another round of \$50,000 grants to the various fairs around Ohio. As many of our fairs either had to cancel or drastically reduce their activities last year it is imperative that we provide them the support they need as they prepare and plan fairs for later this year.

The bill also appropriates \$3,000,000 for Ohio Veterans Homes. This will help fund additional support to operate the veterans homes by offsetting increased sanitation costs, maintaining social distancing, purchasing of PPE, and other necessary costs to comply with public health orders, local health department recommendations, and best practices. This will help to relieve the burden that many of our veterans homes are facing due to the increased costs of the pandemic.

Additionally, this bill would give child care centers over \$112 million dollars which will help fund the new program from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, the latest federal COVID relief bill passed in December by the Congress. This money will help reimburse child care providers for expenses incurred related to the pandemic and encourage retention in the state child care workforce.

Thank you once gain for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 168. I would also like to thank Representative Fraizer for joint sponsoring this bill with me. Additionally, I would like to thank House Leadership for their help and leadership on this issue. I am more than happy to answer any questions.