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Jon Cross State Representative

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 106, the Annie Cacciato Act. It is a very important public health issue, one which is not well known but that affects all home owners, students, and residents of the State of Ohio. This bill will mark January "Radon Awareness Month," raising awareness for the health hazards caused by the existence of radon gas in Ohio's homes, schools, and workplaces.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas found in just about every single home, school, and workplace. In fact, estimates show that 1 in 5 homes in Ohio have dangerous levels of radon. In Ohio you are 17% more likely to get lung cancer than the U.S. average. Nationally, indoor radon gas is the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the #2 cause overall, according to the Surgeon General, EPA and the World Health Organization (WHO). Furthermore, elevated levels of indoor radon gas are common in all 88 counties.

My family and I have experienced the existence of this gas in our home. Fortunately, we were aware of the health hazards created by the existence of radon in the home, and we were able to have it mitigated. It's important the Ohio General Assembly elevate public awareness about the health hazards of elevated levels of radon gas in our homes, schools and workplace.

I also met with a woman named Annie that was able to describe first-hand the pain that radon has caused her. She was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. She is a non-smoker but the cancer pointed to signs of high radon levels. She continues to work to this day to raise awareness of this dangerous gas.

The bill was passed unanimously out of the Ohio House with 58 co-sponsors. We have worked with the Department of Commerce, the Real Estate Division, and other stakeholders, including the Ohio Realtors, to put more information about radon on the residential property disclosure form to help home buyers become more aware of radon.

Thank you again and I would be happy to answer any questions.