



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE
WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB 747
November 27, 2018**

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for House Bill 747, which would create the civilian cyber security reserve forces.

House Bill 747 addresses a growing threat to the security and finances of many of our smaller local governments. Too many local governments have experienced cyberattacks that have left them completely defenseless and often at the mercy of those who have breached their security. Villages, townships, smaller cities and other political subdivisions have had their sensitive data taken hostage and held at ransom. In some cases, smaller local governments without the resources to take any action have felt they have had to pay the ransom in order to have their data returned to them.

This legislation bridges the gap between those smaller, under-resourced local governments and the wealth of individuals in the cyber security profession throughout our state. The proposed Ohio Cyber Reserve (OHCR), which would be established by the Governor's office and the Adjutant General's Department, create and maintain regional Cyber Response Teams (CRT) that will consist of volunteer civilians who are professional cyber security experts vetted and trained in order to quickly and readily respond to a cyber-security threat

When a local government lacks the resources to deter a cyber-attack, the Governor will be able to dispatch a local Cyber Response Team to assist in mitigating and resolving the security threat. Rarely have Ohio's smaller local governments been this vulnerable to attacks of this nature. House Bill 747 creates a much-needed solution, one that local governments across Ohio need as soon as possible. It is worth noting that similar programs have already been created in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association urge for the favorable passage of House Bill 747. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of our organizations.

Sincerely,

**Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League**

**Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director
Ohio Township Association**