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Senator William P. Coley, II, Chairman  
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Coley and Members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

I write to express support for House Bill 18, a bill that eliminates unnecessary special elections to fill a congressional vacancy. Eliminating such elections would save considerable taxpayer money.

Currently, R.C. 3513.312 requires that a special primary election be conducted to fill a vacancy in a party nomination if the person nominated as a candidate for United States Congress withdraws from the race or dies more than 90 days before the general election. The special primary election is required even if only one candidate files and the race is uncontested.

Ohio law provides that the state pay all of the costs associated with conducting such an election and those costs are considerable. For instance, the cost for the special primary election on September 13, 2016 with one candidate on the ballot in the Eighth Congressional District was more than \$340,000.

I am grateful to Representatives Pelanda and Retherford – as well as Senator LaRose, the sponsor of similar legislation – for ensuring this issue receives appropriate legislative consideration. I support House Bill 18 and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Jon Husted