



Representatives Adam C. Mill Sponsor Testimony (as prepared) for HB 326 Before the House Insurance Committee

Thank you Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs and members of the committee.

HB 326 is a simple bill. It would allow OPERS and SERS disability pension recipients to run for small, local office without jeopardizing their entire pension benefit.

We need more people running for local government. Its low pay and not very glamorous but vital to the functioning of our state.

OPERS disability pension recipients have a lot to offer, despite their inability to perform their previous job. We should tap that expertise and those experiences to improve our state.

We know we need more people at the local level of government. Every day there are television ads running in Ohio encouraging people to run for school boards.

Township trustees and local school boards pay very little. No one serves on these board for the pay alone.

One local resident of my district would jeopardize his entire disability pension if he were to accept a \$1500 a year local school board position.

This is also a disability rights issue. We are encouraging people to do nothing; and if they choose to serve their community; we punish them. The irony here is that there is no absolute prohibition on seeking private sector employment with the same loss of pension.

I understand there are some federal – state issues with the legislation as currently written and I am willing to work with the committee to find a way to encourage people to serve their local community – to the best of their ability – without losing benefits they have earned and deserve through their previous service to our state.

I have been working with OPERS and SERS on this.

I appreciate the committee's time and am happy to answer any questions.