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**Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 306**

**Transportation and Public Safety Committee**

**September 17, 2019**

Good Morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for providing me with this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 306.

House Bill 306 would create the “Habitat for Humanity of Ohio” license plate. Habitat for Humanity of Ohio is a non-profit Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate substandard housing all over Ohio by building and renovating decent, affordable homes to sell to low-income first-time homebuyers. Habitat for Humanity of Ohio works to provide a decent and affordable place to live, which frees Ohio families from physical and mental hardships. This would provide them new opportunities, increased confidence and self –reliance.

As part of its goal to provide decent and affordable housing to Ohio’s most vulnerable families, Habitat for Humanity of Ohio provides 0% interest mortgages to families that would otherwise not be able to purchase their own home. This allows for families the ability to not make impossible choices such as, rent or health care and food or transportation. Affordable housing also provides these individuals with the opportunity to build a savings and break the poverty cycle. Thousands of Ohioans spend more than 50% of their income on housing and Ohioans earning a minimum wage of $8.15 an hour would have to work 57 hours each week to afford a modest one bedroom at Fair Market Rent. In addition to providing decent and affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity also works tirelessly to provide resource development, advocacy and training.

Habitat for Humanity of Ohio will use the proceeds from this license plate to help create a route for additional funding to impact the lives of those in need of affordable housing in Ohio. Particularly, the proceeds would allow Habitat for Humanity of Ohio to continue their important efforts of building and renovating more affordable housing in and around all of the communities of Ohio.

I ask for your support of House Bill 306 and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.