

3rd House District
Wood County

Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

614.466.8104
Rep03@ohiohouse.gov



Chairman
Armed Services and Veterans
Affairs

Committees
Finance
Finance Subcommittee on
Higher Education
Transportation and Public Safety
Technology and Innovation

HARAZ N. GHANBARI

State Representative | Ohio House District 3

February 1, 2022

HOUSE BILL 531 SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 531. This legislation would provide Councils of Governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations a chance to partner and obtain legal services at a lower cost by contracting with local county prosecuting attorneys.

As of now these government entities are not permitted to contract with county prosecutors for legal services. When matters of legal intervention are brought up, they are forced to seek private legal services and counsel often becomes more expensive for Ohio's tax payers. By allowing these legal services to be provided to these entities by contract with the county prosecuting attorneys, these organizations would no longer be forced to pay variable rates when seeking legal counsel. To counter all costs that would be garnered from county prosecution for providing their legal counsel and services, prior agreed legal fees can be signed and paid by the contracting entities. This is permissible legislation, and the approval for such legal services would be at the discretion of the prosecutor and would require the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the county in which the prosecutor serves.

Numerous associations including but not limited to the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, The County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Association of Regional Councils have shown their resounding support for this bill. There has yet to be any objection nor neutrals on the legislation further solidifying its support and importance.

Pending any questions, this concludes my testimony in support of House Bill 531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haraz N. Ghanbari".

Haraz N. Ghanbari
Member of the Ohio House of Representatives