



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

House Civil Justice Committee

Proponent Testimony on HB 531

March 1, 2022

Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today on HB 531. My name is Tim Brown, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG).

TMACOG thanks Representative Haraz Ghanbari for working with us to craft this legislation for your consideration. The bill would grant permissive authority to a council of governments, metropolitan planning organization, and rural transportation planning organization to contract with county prosecuting attorneys for legal counsel. Our organizations already work closely with our local governments and have good working relationships. But, at present, we do not have the option to contract with a county prosecutor's office for legal counsel. We often utilize private legal counsel, which sometimes can be more expensive for the taxpayers. Councils of Governments (COGs) are defined under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code, and as entities of government, we believe we should join with other taxpayer supported boards, commissions, and authorities to have the option for such services.

Thank you again for your consideration of our support for HB 531. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.