OML
OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
Partnering for Stronger Cities and Villages

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 377
June 1, 2022

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, on behalf of the league's 720 municipal members, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 377.

House Bill 377, the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief bill would continue the responsibility of the state to provide Ohio's Non-Entitlement Units of government (NEU's), who have elected to participate in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, with the second and final tranche distribution of the emergency relief funding to the participating communities.

As your local leaders have shared with you and as you are aware, these federal, one-time funds have come at a critical time for Ohio's municipalities as local budgets continue to experience significant disruptions and challenges with revenue shortfalls due to the depressed labor participation rate and other economic forces that continue to drive employer costs up and revenue collections down. The ARPA resources have provided municipalities across the state with crucial financial support and have provided communities with opportunities to invest in the future through legacy projects and critical infrastructure improvements in areas such as roads & bridges, broadband and water & sewer.

These funds will also be instrumental in ensuring our first responders and law enforcement are better equipped to handle the daily responsibilities they face when serving as our first responders.

The league and our members appreciate the legislature's attention to this time sensitive legislation as many of these dollars have already been dedicated for existing programs and support opportunities through-out the state. Thank you for your consideration of our support of this legislation and we appreciate the swift action by your committee to ensure the bill's passage.

Thomas J. Wetmore, II
Legislative Advocate