

## Representative Brett Hillyer Ohio's 51st House District

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the House Commerce & Labor Committee, thank you for giving my joint sponsor and me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 282. As Rep. Miller described, this bill seeks to establish a mold information and awareness program to assist the public in understanding the threat of mold in buildings.

The intent of this bill is to inform and protect Ohioans against the dangers of toxic mold. Like Rep. Miller, I spoke with constituents who suffered from mold poisoning for years without any knowledge of its existence or risks. If they were informed on the presence and dangers of toxic mold, our constituents could have avoided years of medical bills and psychological distress.

This bill requires the Department of Commerce to conduct studies on the adverse effects of mold on humans. This mold program would add no burden to homeowners or tenants, as it is a purely informational program overseen entirely by the Department of Commerce. These studies will better inform homeowners, contractors, health practitioners, and lawmakers so we can work together to keep Ohioans safe.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. We now welcome questions from the committee.

Brett Hillyer State Representative Ohio's 51<sup>st</sup> House District