



HOUSE STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony HB 145, 5.16.23

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I urge you to support and favorably report House Bill 145, sponsored by Reps. Hall & Lampton, which would permissively expand political subdivision joint purchasing authority to expressly include purchases for construction services.

As mentioned by the bill sponsors during its first hearing, HB 145 will eliminate and reduce barriers by adding clarity to the ORC in light of a 2019 opinion by the Attorney General that has led to uncertainty among some local governments regarding what are permissible uses of joint purchasing authority and what are not. AFP – Ohio supports this legislation because the administration of government functions should be as efficient and cost-effective as possible, and granting local governments the option to essentially pool their resources to maximize capability will allow for optimized fiscal stewardship.

Thank you again, Madame Chair, for the opportunity to submit testimony today. AFP – Ohio supports HB 145, and on behalf of my organization and our affiliated activists, I urge the members of the committee to favorably report this bill. Thank you.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.

