*BEFORE THE HOUSE STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE*
*PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 74*

Good afternoon, Chairwoman John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and Members of the House State & Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 74. My name is Justin Barnes, and I am the Director of Workforce, Small Business, and Technology Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

House Bill 74 seeks to implement several changes and improvements to the state of Ohio's information technology (IT) systems and services. Included in the changes is a requirement for a roadmap to migrate the state's IT systems to the State of Ohio Computer Center, and then to the state's cloud providers managed by the Office of Information Technology. Another change would require the Director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to maintain a list of state-owned application software and associated hardware. This should allow DAS to identify information silos that exist throughout the state of Ohio's IT systems, leading to opportunities to improve services and cut costs.

Additionally, a new Biannual Advisory Committee on State Information Technology will track the state's spending on IT systems and services, receive recommendations to the IT systems from feedback received from county and state users of the systems, and report any possible enhancements to the state's IT systems and services. These measures will improve services, create efficiencies, and lower the cost of delivering services to the taxpayers of Ohio.

HB 74 also outlines the creation of a Cybersecurity and Fraud Advisory Board. This board will develop recommendations for best practices, methods to enhance or improve cybersecurity with respect to the IT systems and services used across state agencies. This new focus on cybersecurity threats will provide confidence that the state of Ohio is protecting sensitive data and hardening the defenses used to provide new levels of protection as new threats are identified.

Overall, a bill that seeks to identify the full inventory of state IT systems and services, adds new reporting on cybersecurity, creates new opportunities for enhanced and efficient services and develops best practices recommendations for adoption by the State of Ohio, is a bill that will in turn save Ohioans money, improve communication between state agencies, and guard and protect data stored and used by governmental agencies.

The Ohio Chamber supports HB 74 and would like to thank Representatives Hall and Lightbody for their work on this legislation. We look forward to working with you toward the goal of delivering a better experience to users of government services, lowering the cost of providing those services, enhancing cybersecurity, and allowing the state of Ohio to adopt industry best practices, all of which will thereby improve Ohio's business climate. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.