



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 57
Representative Steve Demetriou, 35th House District
Representative Thomas Hall, 46th House District
Ways and Means Committee

Thank you Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Merrin, Ranking Member Troy, and the rest of our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 57. I would like to give additional thanks to Speaker Stephens and Representative LaRe for encouraging us to reintroduce this important legislation in the 135th General Assembly. This bill saves Ohio seniors and disabled veterans money by indexing the homestead exemption to inflation.

Inflation has been a major political and legislative issue since the beginnings of the COVID-related crises nearly three years ago. Massive government spending, low interest rates, and a choked supply chain gave many Americans and Ohioans concern about rising prices of everything from a gallon of milk to a new home. These concerns have unfortunately come to fruition over the past two years. The GDP Price index showed a year over year increase of 7% in 2022 on top of a 4.5% increase in 2021. That means the price of a good worth \$100 at the end of 2020 rose to nearly \$112 at the end of 2022- a 12% increase.¹ As we know, Ohioans who live on fixed incomes- such as seniors and disabled veterans, are significantly impacted by inflation compared to Americans earning more variable incomes. House Bill 57 pegs the standard and enhanced exemption amounts to the GDP price index to help decrease inflationary risk for our seniors and disabled veterans.

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and Ranking Member, I would now like to allow my joint sponsor Steve Demetriou to provide his comments.

¹ [BEA Statistics](#)

Good afternoon Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Merrin, and Ranking Member Troy, along with my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for your time today.

As you may know, the homestead tax exemption exempts \$25,000 of appraised property value for seniors, homeowners who are totally and permanently disabled, and surviving spouses of fallen first responders who make less than \$36,100. The program offers an enhanced exemption of \$50,000 for veterans rated 100% disabled by the VA. These Ohioans saved over \$365 million in 2020, with nearly 750,000 Ohioans saving an average of nearly \$500 on their property tax bill.²

Now with mortgage rates on the rise, tax appraisals likely to increase, and everyday household goods more expensive - Ohio seniors and disabled vets are concerned about being priced out of their homes. According to a recent AARP Survey, nearly 75% of people over the age of 50 prefer to stay in their current home and live on their own, but well over half are or are considering living with a non-family member.³ Our seniors and disabled veterans deserve to live in dignity, and preserve the lifestyle they deserve and should be able to afford.

House Bill 57 is one step towards alleviating the pressures of inflation for many Ohioans living on fixed incomes by pegging the Homestead Exemption to inflation. We look forward to earning this committee's support on House Bill 57 and ensuring our Ohio seniors and disabled veterans can afford their dignity and way of life. Thank you to all of our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for your time and attention today, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

² <https://tax.ohio.gov/researcher/tax-analysis/tax-data-series/real-property/he1/he1ty20>

³ [AARP Survey](#)