



### **Proponent Testimony for HB 199, House Ways and Means Committee, June 20, 2023**

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I am the Deputy Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity Ohio. Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country's biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where individuals succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites activists in all 50 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

I write this testimony in support of House Bill 199, which would eliminate the marriage penalty currently in Ohio's tax code. One of AFP's many goals is to work toward a tax code that treats all residents fairly and neutrally, regardless of their marital status. The ideal income tax system would be flat and low, as to adequately fund only essential government programs. House Bill 199 moves our tax code closer to this ideal by eliminating the marriage penalty so that individuals who choose to marry will not be penalized or rewarded depending on the equity or disparity of their incomes. That Ohio's current tax system treats individuals differently based on whether they are married violates this system of neutrality, and it is fundamentally unfair. AFP – Ohio applauds the leadership of Representative Dean and Representative Young on this issue. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today, and for holding this hearing on HB 199. I urge this committee to favorably report HB 199 and look forward to continuing the work, alongside policy champions, that modifies Ohio's tax code to provide more economic activity for all Ohioans.