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TESTIMONY BEFORE OHIO HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

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Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
November 14, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Roemer and members of the Committee for allowing me to provide proponent testimony on HB 263 which authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.

My name is Nan Cahall and I am here representing the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio, commonly known as COA. Founded in 1971, COA is the state designated Area Agency on Aging, serving Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. As an Area Agency on Aging, we are part of the national aging service network.

COA's mission is to enhance lives by assisting people to remain independent through a range of quality services. Our programs and services impact people of all ages and the effects are felt throughout our community. The programs and services we administer which prevent or delay nursing home care for more than 26,000 individuals in our region is important because people want to remain in their homes as long as possible, and our programs and services save taxpayers.

Legislation introduced by Representatives Hall and Isaacsohn, HB 263, which would freeze the amount of taxes owed on homes owned by qualifying longtime homeowners will help older Ohioans maintain their independence. Data shows the benefit of maintaining independence, including remaining in your home as you age, is a longer, healthier life. HB 263 will reduce the rising tax burden of homeownership for older adults in Ohio helping to ensure they can continue to live and thrive in the cities, towns, and villages they've lived in and helped to build, while also enriching the community experience for people of all ages.

For these reasons, COA supports the passage of HB 263, also known as the 70 Under 70 Plan.

I would also like to note, before I close, that COA intends to endorse and provide supporting testimony for the two previous bills you heard sponsor testimony on today, HB 274 and HB 254.

In closing, I again want to thank you for your attention today and your service to Ohioans.