



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**Senate Bill 91
Proponent Testimony
May 31, 2023
Senate Government Oversight Committee**

Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 91.

SB 91 creates a new standard for transparency and promotes good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. This legislation requires the Auditor of State to create training material to be distributed to new and existing public employees and officials across the state, and mandates reporting if fraud or abuse is suspected. The OTA supports this transparency and is a standard we as an Association want the 1,308 townships to meet.

The OTA believes the implementation of mandatory reporting will encourage employees to speak up earlier knowing the serious consequences of being silent. With a raised awareness any fraud hopefully will be caught early enough that it is less damaging to the subdivision otherwise.

We were saddened to hear Senator Schaffer's sponsor testimony of a fraud violation that came from a township official. The OTA applauds and thanks the Auditor's office for catching the fraud, as one bad actor can spoil the reputation of the rest. The OTA has met with the Auditor of State's office to discuss the possible training material and have given our commitment to helping educate our members in any way deemed fit.

In a perfect world, no public official or employee would abuse public funds; that is a standard we all strive towards and the OTA believes this legislation is a step in that direction.

Chairwoman Roegner, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you and the Senate Government Oversight Committee. The OTA thanks Senator Schaffer for sponsoring and Auditor of State Keith Faber for crafting this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions you or the committee members may have.