



News Release

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CCAO Contact: Jessica Newbacher, (440) 319-1041, jnewbacher@ccao.org

Henry County Commissioner and CCAO President Glenn Miller Testifies in Support of House Bill 33

COLUMBUS, OH – On Tuesday, Henry County Commissioner and CCAO President testified in front of the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee in support of House Bill 33. CCAO appreciates Governor DeWine’s proposed investments in the key areas of ensuring full state reimbursement for indigent defense costs, a restoration of the Local Government Fund (LGF), and continued funding for vital county jail projects. CCAO looks forward to working with the General Assembly to continue strengthening the state-county partnership.

Indigent Defense

Indigent defense is a service provided by counties on behalf of the state, with commissioners having little control over how the systems are operated. “CCAO appreciates the recent unprecedented levels of financial support for indigent defense reimbursement from the General Assembly and the DeWine-Husted Administration. However, counties across the state are seeing costs increase for indigent defense due to factors outside of their control,” said Miller during his testimony. CCAO asks for additional funding for the program, language to allow for a state administered pilot program for indigent defense at the county level, and a statutory freeze on the dollar amount that counties are reimbursed by the state.

Local Government Fund

In 2011 the LGF was cut to 1.66% of state GRF tax revenue from 3.68%, with The Executive Budget increasing the rate to 1.7% of GRF tax revenue. CCAO, in collaboration with the Ohio Township Association (OTA) proposed to increase the LGF to 2.5% of state GRF tax revenue, double the small township and village fund, raise the lowest amount a county jurisdiction can receive from \$750,000 to \$850,000, and require each county to reevaluate their LGF formula every five years.

Jail Funding

Many Ohio jails face workforce shortages and complex mental health and substance abuse issues among inmates, as well as being in desperate need of repair or total reconstruction to ensure safety of staff and inmates. CCAO is thankful for the \$50 million included in HB 33, but respectfully requests that the amount be increased to \$200 million total over the biennium, allowing counties to construct new facilities, resulting in increased public safety.

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio advances effective county government for Ohio through legislative advocacy, education and training, technical assistance and research, quality enterprise service programs, and greater citizen awareness and understanding of county government.

County Commissioners Association of Ohio | 209 E. State St. | Columbus, Ohio | 43215 | 614-221-5627 | Fax 614-221-6986
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