



News Release

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CCAO applauds investments included in the Omnibus Amendment to Substitute House Bill 33

COLUMBUS, OH – CCAO thanks Speaker Jason Stephens, House Finance Committee Chairman Jay Edwards, and members of the Ohio House for the investments included in the Omnibus Amendment to Substitute House Bill 33 today. Specifically, CCAO appreciates the funding for jails, indigent defense, and Next Generation 9-1-1.

“CCAO is grateful to the Ohio House of Representatives for providing additional support to counties in many of our key budget priorities, which will ultimately strengthen the state-county partnership,” said Henry County Commissioner and CCAO President Glenn Miller. “The investments contained in this bill will directly increase public safety in Ohio and allow counties to provide key services to their constituents.”

Indigent Defense Funding

CCAO commends the \$48 million increase announced for indigent defense reimbursement. The additional funding is vital to counties as they face cost increases and attorney shortages. The House also included language that will allow counties to contract with the state for indigent defense services, which will provide counties with flexibility when determining how to deliver this constitutional mandated service. The House established a cap on the state reimbursement rate for counties which maintains the current level. This mechanism will provide consistency with respect to funding across the state and ensure that county reimbursement is predictable for budgeting purposes.

Next Generation 9-1-1

The House Omnibus Amendment will dramatically improve public safety in Ohio through the implementation of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) system. The NG 9-1-1 system will provide important information to our first responders, increase access to 9-1-1 services, and practically eliminate the scenario where a 9-1-1 call would go unanswered. The House language will also provide consistent funding to local governments to operate this system, ensuring the system will operate effectively at the local level.

Jail Funding

Ohio jails are facing workforce shortages, mental health and substance abuse issues and are in desperate need of repairs. CCAO applauds the additional \$150 million investment for jails, totaling \$200 million over the biennium.

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.

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