



News Release

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Henry County Commissioner and CCAO President Glenn Miller Testifies on Substitute House Bill 33

COLUMBUS, OH – Today, Glenn Miller, Henry County Commissioner and CCAO President, testified in front of the Senate General Government Committee on Substitute House Bill 33. During his testimony, President Miller provided an overview of CCAO’s budget priorities for consideration in the Ohio Senate. President Miller also expressed CCAO’s gratitude for the proposed investments from the DeWine-Husted administration as well as the Ohio House and how we look to build upon those investments in three key areas: 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 Ohio Senate to continue strengthening the state-county partnership.

Full State Reimbursement for Indigent Defense

Indigent defense reimbursement remains one of CCAO’s critical priorities. “Due to the rise in caseloads for traffic violations, misdemeanors, and felonies throughout the state, along with rising public defender cost per case, CCAO is asking this committee to increase funding by \$20 million in each fiscal year to achieve full reimbursement,” said Miller during his testimony. Along with the increase in funding, CCAO proposes creating a separate line item to fund counties who contract with the state and allocate additional dollars to allow the OPD to contract with additional counties during the biennium.

Local Government Fund

Miller noted that historically, the LGF received 3.68% of the state GRF tax revenue before being cut to 1.66% in 2011. CCAO respectfully requests an increase in the Local Government Fund to 2.5% of state GRF tax revenue, which would increase revenue to counties, municipalities, and townships by an estimated \$250 million in each fiscal year. CCAO also supports the language included in the budget that raises the lowest amount a county jurisdiction can receive from \$750,000 to \$850,000, as well as a requirement that the County Budget Commission hold a meeting with the local jurisdictions within each county to review the distribution formula at least once every five years.

Jail Funding

Miller emphasized the ongoing need to fund county jail projects. CCAO requests that the Senate retains the \$200 million funding allocated by the House, as jails face many challenges including workforce shortage and inmates with complex substance abuse and mental health issues. Many jails are in desperate need of repair or total reconstruction to ensure safety for staff and inmates.

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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