



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**HB 531**

**November 27, 2018**

Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 531.

HB 531 would remove the cap on the amount of grant monies the state can allocate to a municipality for hosting a major sporting event. The bill would also modify eligibility requirements for such grants and would fund the grant program from state sales tax receipts.

Almost ten years ago, the state started a grant program that allocates grants up to \$500,000 to local organizing committees, counties or municipalities who are hosting a major sporting event. In addition to removing the \$500,000 cap, the bill mandates that the grant program be funded via sales taxes in a fund administered by the Ohio Department of Development Services.

A municipality hosting a major sporting event would be eligible for grant monies from this fund provided the event will generate over \$250,000 in economic growth. Millions of dollars in economic activity are created by these kinds of events. This bill will help empower municipalities to bid for the opportunity to hosts these kinds of events, knowing these grant funds will help offset the cost while generating revenue for the local community. We appreciate Rep. Schuring and Rep. Greenspan for recognizing this opportunity and drafting this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your favorable passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett  
Executive Director  
Ohio Municipal League