County Auditors' Association of Ohio

66 East Lynn Street · Columbus, Ohio 43215 · (614) 228-2226 · Fax: (614) 228-8901 · www.caao.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Auditors Thank Legislature for One-Time Homestead Relief, Urge Legislature to Continue Pursuit for Permanent Relief

The County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO) commends members of the Ohio General Assembly for including expanded Homestead funding in HB 479, providing meaningful property tax relief for eligible homeowners across the state.

The additional Homestead relief, totaling approximately $350 million, represents a significant step toward helping Ohio homeowners, particularly seniors living on fixed incomes who continue to face rising property values and increasing tax bills.

Nearly one year ago, the CAAO outlined four key property tax priorities for the 136th General Assembly:

- Expansion of the Homestead Exemption Program
- Elimination of the Non-Business Credit and enhancement of the Owner-Occupancy Credit
- Limiting revenue growth resulting from property reappraisals
- Creation of a menu of targeted taxpayer relief options

With the inclusion of expanded Homestead relief in HB 479, the General Assembly has successfully addressed each of these priorities.

County Auditors across Ohio appreciate lawmakers' willingness to listen to local concerns and act on one of the Association's top priorities without shifting costs onto local governments, schools, or other essential community services. Providing taxpayer relief while preserving the financial stability of local services reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach to public policy.

HB 479 delivers important assistance to many Ohio homeowners. At the same time, the CAAO encourages policymakers to continue pursuing long-term solutions that provide greater predictability and stability for taxpayers. Ohio homeowners need a property tax system that offers sustainable relief rather than temporary measures that may require periodic revisions.

County Auditors witness firsthand the challenges facing taxpayers, especially seniors and long-time homeowners whose incomes have not kept pace with rapidly increasing property values. The additional assistance provided through HB 479 will help many Ohio families.

The County Auditors' Association of Ohio looks forward to continued collaboration with the General Assembly and the Governor's Office to advance meaningful, sustainable, and permanent property tax reforms that benefit taxpayers throughout Ohio.