

The Ohio House's initial changes to Gov. DeWine's budget proposal are generally positive for affordable housing, with one glaring exception. **And we'll need your help to fix that issue!**

The Good News: The substitute budget bill adopted by the House Finance Committee yesterday includes COHHIO's [budget requests](#) including increased funding to expand Healthy Beginnings at Home; continued funding for youth homelessness programs, and new appropriations for zoning reform and credit score repair. ([New HB 33 documents](#))

The committee also replaced Gov. DeWine's plan to create a new state housing tax credit with the House's much more robust version (HB 3). Even better, they included language that would fix the lame duck session amendment on [property tax valuation](#) that could allow counties to unconstitutionally raise taxes on affordable housing properties.

The Bad News: The House's budget includes a new provision that would make the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) get a resolution of support from county commissioners before financing any proposed project. In addition, county commissioners would have to consult with township trustees and municipal officials, and conduct at least one public hearing.

This provision applies to all of OHFA's programs – Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME, Ohio Housing Trust Fund, and other funding sources. Furthermore, the language appears to apply retroactively to projects that have already been approved but not yet closed.

This NIMBY provision would create another onerous hurdle for building or rehabilitating affordable housing, which can already take years due to local opposition and court challenges.

Act Now: The House Finance Committee will make additional changes to the budget in the next few days before passing it to the Senate. **We need your help to keep the good and remove the bad housing provisions from the bill!**

Please call and/or email the following House leaders to thank them for keeping the good and alert them to the bad:

- House Speaker Jason Stephens (R-Kitts Hill): (614) 466-1366; rep93@ohiohouse.gov
- House Finance Chairman Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville): (614) 466-2158; rep94@ohiohouse.gov

- Rep. Gail Pavliga (R-Portage County): (614) 466-2004; rep72@ohiohouse.gov
- Rep. Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon): (614) 466-3760; rep81@ohiohouse.gov
- Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington): (614) 466-8012; rep07@ohiohouse.gov
- Rep. Lauren McNally (D-Youngstown): (614) 466-9435; rep59@ohiohouse.gov

Here's a message you can include in your calls and emails:

- Thank you for supporting critical housing programs in the House budget. We appreciate your support for Healthy Beginnings at Home, and a bold new housing tax credit program.
- However, we're very concerned that a new provision requiring county approval for affordable housing will make the new housing tax credit program unworkable, and make Ohio's affordable housing crisis even worse.
- Local opposition based on misguided, outdated stereotypes already makes it extremely difficult to build affordable housing; requiring county commissioners' approval will create another bureaucratic hurdle that will kill much needed development, especially in non-urban communities with the most need.

Please remove this provision in Section 175.18 of Substitute House Bill 33 (HFACD2 in the [comparison document](#)) so that we can start creating more affordable housing for people with disabilities, seniors, and families working low-wage jobs