October 14, 2015

To:       Members of the Ohio House State Government
From:     John Leutz, Legislative Counsel
RE:       Interested Parties Testimony for House Bill 240 – Coroner Bill

Chairman Maag, Ranking Minority Member Curtin, and members of the House State Government Committee thank you for the opportunity to give interested parties testimony on House Bill 240.

CCAO wants to thank former County Coroners, Representatives Steven Huffman and Terry Johnson, for their efforts in crafting this measure. We also want to thank David Corey and the Ohio State Coroners Association for their work on this proposal.

In working with the sponsors and other interested parties, House Bill 240 helps to rectify one pressing issue facing some counties in next year’s election, finding a qualified coroner candidate in every county. We believe because of recent changes made to Ohio’s Public Employee Retirement System there will a shortage of qualified candidates to run for coroner is some counties. House Bill 240 would allow a board of county commissioners to contract with another county’s coroner to perform the functions and duties of a coroner when the coroner dies, resigns, or no one runs for the office. Currently, there is no provision in the Revised Code to all for to allow for the contract with another coroner to perform all the statutory services of another coroner.

CCAO also supports requiring the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or the Department of Youth Services to pay the costs of an autopsy whenever the death of an inmate happens at a state correctional facility.

Chairman Maag and members of the committee, thank you again for giving me opportunity to give interested parties testimony on House Bill 240. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have.