



**Senator Tim Schaffer**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Ohio Senate District**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SCHAFFER EYES DRUG TESTING FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS**

*COLUMBUS* – State Senator Tim Schaffer (R – Lancaster) provided sponsor testimony today on his legislation to establish a drug testing pilot program for Ohio Works First (OWF), the state’s cash assistance program. The bill received its first hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Under Senate Bill 69, individuals applying for public assistance through OWF will be subject to a drug test should there be reasonable cause to suspect the presence of chemical dependency. The person undergoing the drug test will be responsible for the test’s cost. Should an individual fail a drug test, he or she will be eligible for referral to a certified alcohol and drug addiction program.

Three Ohio counties will be chosen to take part in the pilot should the legislation become law. Participating counties will be selected at the discretion of the Director of Job and Family Services following a volunteer application process.

“It is a sad truth that there are some among us who abuse the system and make it difficult for deserving individuals to obtain the help that they need,” Schaffer said. “A measure of this nature has been discussed for some time now and the residents of the 31<sup>st</sup> District have made their support for it quite clear. This legislation is a responsible and sound approach in resolving an ongoing drug abuse problem in our state that wastes taxpayers’ money.”

Florida, Missouri, and Arizona have already enacted legislation similar to Senate Bill 69 and several additional states are currently weighing related proposals.

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*State Senator Tim Schaffer was elected to the Ohio Senate in 2006 after serving in the Ohio House of Representatives for six years. His legislative accomplishments include enacting anti-corruption reforms, income tax indexing, and stronger penalties on sexual predators. He and his wife reside in Lancaster.*