



The Ohio Township Association (OTA) would like to thank the Ohio Legislative Service Commission (LSC) for the opportunity to comment on the *2010 Local Impact Statement (LIS) Report*. The fiscal impact legislation may have on townships often is underestimated but the Legislative Service Commission has done a nice job of recognizing the impacts on local governments, specifically townships.

While the *2010 Local Impact Statement Report* offers an analysis of legislation passed in 2009, it is not comprehensive. State budget bills are exempted from local impact statement requirements and, therefore, are not included in this report. For example, included in HB 1, the biennial budget, was a provision that requires all employers, including townships, with ten or more employees to adopt and maintain a Section 125 cafeteria plan to assist employees with health insurance should the township not offer or provide for health insurance. This mandate will have a fiscal impact on townships with ten or more employees should the township not currently provide such benefits.

The OTA encourages the General Assembly to include budget bills in the LIS report in order to provide a more comprehensive look at how legislation passed affects local governments. A procedure should be established by which local governments can contest new laws that are not fully funded, yet give the General Assembly adequate time to modify or fund the mandates they impose.

Given the fact only 17 bills were enacted and became law in 2009 *and* budget bills are exempted from local impact statement requirements, this report, for the first time in nine years, does not contain any bills with a fiscal impact on township government.

The LIS Report is an important educational resource for our members and the members of the General Assembly as it highlights the effect certain legislation passed the previous year will have on townships' budgets, and keeps legislators and local officials aware of any unfunded mandates created in legislation. Although the actual impact new laws will have on townships will not be known until the laws are put into practice, the fiscal analyses provide a base for which townships can determine how a new law may affect their budgets. The Ohio Township Association appreciates the opportunity to provide our input and thanks the Legislative Service Commission for all of their hard work in compiling this data, as it is truly beneficial to legislators and local government organizations.