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House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 103
March 25, 2015

Good morning Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony, along with Representative Pelanda, on House Bill 103.

I'm glad to speak with you all about this new piece of legislation, sponsored by myself and Representative Pelanda—House Bill 103, which works to connect policy makers and entrepreneurs with the goal of highlighting and assisting Ohio women and their business endeavors. Our hope is to begin the conversation about how we can further encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among women leaders and craft opportunities for these women to link up and share their experiences.

Here are some highlights of House Bill 103:

- The bill names the second week of March as “Ohio Women’s Week for Policy and Entrepreneurship”
- Additionally, the legislation requires the state and private sector to work together to host a two-day forum during Women’s Week. The forum will occur every two years on the even numbered year.
- A special committee will be appointed in March of the odd numbered year preceding the forum. The committee will include members from the House and Senate, community leaders, entrepreneurs, business leaders and appointees by the Governor.
- The state will host a competition during the two day forum for newly established entrepreneurs or entrepreneurs with developing business plans.
- The committee will be responsible for issuing a report to the General Assembly due after the forum and they will manage the application process leading up to the forum for the competition. The committee will also choose a winner of the competition.

By cultivating principles of openness and cooperation between our policy makers and entrepreneurs, we will be able to address the matter of global competitiveness. Overcoming issues of social justice and gender inequality will enable innovative American businesswomen to follow their passions, create jobs and add value to the marketplace and to their communities.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Economic and Workforce Development committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on this very important piece of legislation.