



**Representative Dorothy Pelanda
Assistant Majority Whip**

**House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Representative Dorothy Pelanda
Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 103
March 25, 2015**

Good morning Chairwoman Baker, Vice-Chairman 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 Kunze, on House Bill 103.

House Bill 103 designates the second week of March as Ohio Women's Week for Policy and Entrepreneurship. Additionally, the bill will create the Ohio Women's Policy and Entrepreneurship Committee and create a two-day competition and forum each even-numbered year during the designated week.

This is an issue that both Representative Kunze and I feel very passionate about and we are thankful and encouraged by the support of Speaker Rosenberger in this endeavor.

Even in 2015, women are still facing challenges in the realm of business and leadership. These do not just exist within major corporations, but also in politics, in small business and even in the non-profit sector. Questions about compensation and discrimination remain but instead of simply focusing on the problem, HB 103 seeks to find solutions.

According to the Pew Research Center in Forbes magazine:

- The share of state legislators who are women is at 24.2% in 2015.
- Today, 26 women are serving as CEOs of Fortune 500 companies (5.2%).
- Women account for 26.4 percent of college presidents.
- In 2012, the median hourly earnings for female workers 16 and older were 84% of men's earnings.

An encouraging statistic from the article:

- Today, about one-in-three (34%) professionals in the legal field are women, and so are one-in-five partners in private law firms. Women also make up about a quarter of U.S. federal (24%) and state (27%) court judges. In addition, women account for 30% of the physician workforce in the country.

There is still more work to be done. Our goal is to nurture communication among legislators, community leaders, and businesses, entrepreneurs, and women leaders so that we can find opportunities for women, specifically in leadership.

HB 103 begins that important work. I will now turn it over to my colleague Representative Kunze, who will speak more to the specifics of the bill and we will be glad to address questions following her testimony.