



# OHIO ALLIANCE FOR CIVIL JUSTICE



The Honorable Jim Butler  
Chair, Ohio House Civil Justice Committee  
House District 41  
77 S. High St.  
13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

November 27, 2018

Dear Chairman Butler, Representative Lang and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice, we write to express our support for H.B. 694. This legislation provides needed reform to Ohio's statute of limitations on written and oral contracts and delivers a boost to Ohio's business climate.

The Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice (OACJ) was founded in the mid-1980s to stop lawsuit abuse and promote a common sense civil justice system in Ohio. The OACJ is comprised of representatives of dozens of Ohio trade and professional associations, small and large businesses, medical groups, farmers, non-profit organizations and local government associations for a combined representation of more than 100,000 individuals and businesses.

Enacting this reform provides multiple clear benefits to the state: certainty; cost reduction; and an improved business climate.

As many of you know, businesses thrive on certainty and stability. A clearly defined period of liability enables businesses to plan effectively.

Moreover, reducing the statute of limitations provides distinct and direct cost savings to Ohio businesses through condensing the length of time needed to retain documents. Document retention has become a key driver of cost increases to businesses. Reducing the statute of limitations is a straightforward way to lower this cost for and ease a growing burden faced by Ohio's business community.

Finally, enacting this proposal increases Ohio's competitiveness with other similarly situated states. By moving to three years, Ohio would position itself alongside the states of Delaware, Maryland, and North Carolina, and also the District of Columbia, all high growth states that Ohio regularly competes with to attract new jobs and economic development. This important reform also helps Ohio maintain and improve its competitive advantage in the region.

We would be happy to answer any questions or engage in further discussion.

Sincerely,



Chris Ferruso  
NFIB/Ohio  
OACJ Chair



Ryan Augsburger  
OMA  
OACJ Vice Chair



Barbara Benton  
OSCPA  
OACJ Treasurer



Monica Hueckel  
OSMA  
OACJ Secretary



Keith Lake  
Ohio Chamber  
OACJ Assistant Secretary



Sean McGlone  
OHA  
Member at Large

Cc: The Honorable Ryan Smith (OH-93), Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives  
The Honorable George F. Lang (OH-52), Sponsor, HB 694  
Members, Ohio House Civil Justice Committee