



**State Representatives  
Rick Perales and Kristin Boggs**

**Government Accountability and  
Oversight Committee: 1:00pm, Room 114  
House Bill 498 Sponsor Testimony  
Micro-distilleries  
February 20th, 2018**

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, members of the Committee. We thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 398. The General Assembly needs to continue making responsible, smart legislation that helps build Ohio's Economy. HB 398 is a bill that does just that.

Last General Assembly Representative DeVitis and I joint sponsored legislation that provided permission to increase production limits for distilled spirits, as well as authorize distillers to create on-site restaurants to sell their products. HB 351 led to the expansion of our state's thriving micro-distilleries, and their on-site restaurants. This legislation was in response to an increasing cultural desire to support locally-owned, small businesses. By passing that legislation, we allowed for our residents to do just that, all while creating jobs and increasing appeal to tourism. In pursuit of the continued growth of the industry,

I'm standing before you today testifying that HB 398 is the next logical step to continuing this growth.

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This bill does two things: it lifts the current provision that restricts an individual from buying more than two bottles per day at each location and allows distilleries the opportunity to open two additional satellite restaurants.

Other states have much less regulation than what this bill is proposing for Ohio. Other control states, such as Pennsylvania and Michigan, have no limit to the number of bottles sold in their states' distilleries. In addition, Michigan allows unlimited satellite restaurants for its distilleries, and Pennsylvania permits five. Legislation that lifts the tight restrictions on micro-distilleries has continued to pass in other states. These laws have proven to ignite the industry in their respective states and expand a trade that supports locality.

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, members of the Committee. We thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 398. Thank you for your consideration, we'd be happy to answer any questions.