



Chair Blessing, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 221. I also want to thank Senator Uecker and his staff for keeping me involved in the process as the bill passed out of the Senate and into this committee.

My name is Brandon Ogden and I am the president and founder of Small Business Consultants of Ohio. On behalf of small businesses and a variety of non-profits from around the state, I would like to take this opportunity to express support for Senate Bill 221. If enacted, SB 221 would ensure that impacts to business are the utmost concern when promulgating and reviewing agency rules. Through the creation of the Common Sense Initiative Office (CSIO) and the great work of the office's staff, Ohio has become more business friendly. However, this legislation adds another important layer to the progress already made. SB 221 gives JCARR and CSIO enhanced authority and encourages stronger collaboration between both entities.

Unfortunately, small businesses do not have the time in which to navigate the rule-making process and often recognize that a rule is harmful to their business once it is already being enforced by an agency; this is often too late. For that reason, adding to the definition of "adverse impact on business" is critically important. This expanded definition of adverse business impact is essentially the cornerstone of the legislation, especially from a small business perspective. Adding language that includes rules that would likely reduce the revenue or increase the expenses of a business is a more accurate representation of an "adverse impact".

Another key provision of SB 221 is allowing for an expedited five-year rule review if a business or other stakeholder indicates that it is adversely impacting their business. By statute all agency rules are to be brought back through JCARR but sadly there are hundreds of agency rules that are currently behind on their five-year reviews. This means that businesses continue to be bound by these potentially outdated rules and have virtually no recourse or defense from the harmful effects.

It may be worth mentioning that pages 9 through 11 of the Buckeye Pathway document published at the beginning of last year, are dedicated to regulatory fairness for businesses. Whether or not the Buckeye Pathway is still considered the House Republican agenda, the fact remains, its inclusion in the document amongst a handful of other forward-thinking public policy ideas indicates just how crucial it is. That said, regulatory and rulemaking reform is not a republican or democrat issue, each and every one of you have small businesses in your districts that are impacted by agency rules.

Finally, I want to thank Senator Uecker for introducing this legislation which is essentially a re-introduction of companion bills that he and Rep. Duffey carried last general assembly. It is also important to note that the current Governor's administration has been increasingly cooperative in fine tuning the language contained in SB 221 so that the legislation is impactful for business but

not overly burdensome to agencies and regulators. Now is the time to act, so the next Governor's administration can fully interpret and implement the changes as they take office early next year.

Chair Blessing, thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions that you or other committee members may have.