

**HB 65 Proponent Testimony**  
**Presented by Michael Williams, East of Chicago Pizza**  
**Before the House State and Local Government Committee**  
**Chair Marlene Anielski**  
**March 7, 2017**

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 65. My name is Michael Williams, and I am the Vice President of Operations for East of Chicago Pizza. Our company's headquarters is located in Lima, and we have 75 locations in 8 states.

Protecting and promoting food safety is one of our company's main priorities. Without a strong culture of food safety, our company's name would be at risk, but more importantly, so would our customers' health. We are committed to providing the safest food possible to our customers, and we understand the best way to do so is to focus on the elimination of critical violations in our facilities. Doing so eliminates risk factors that are more likely to cause our customers to become ill.

We support House Bill 65 because it will provide our local health inspectors with the ability to focus on critical violations in our facilities as well as apply some common sense during inspections. Currently, inspectors are being forced to find as many violations as possible in facilities across the state. While inspection reports with over 100 violations may impress bureaucrats that do not operate or inspect facilities on a daily basis, they do not improve food safety. Allowing inspectors to spend time working to eliminate foods being held at an improper temperature will have a much bigger impact on food safety than requiring inspectors to insure I have a lid on the trash cans in my restroom.

I'm not advocating to make food inspections in Ohio easier. I'm simply here to ask that you allow inspectors across the state to use common sense, and to work with operators to gain compliance rather than forcing them to implement an over burdensome and over regulated approach that will only lead to animosity between restaurants and local health departments. There's no need for this type of an approach, and implementing the approach will not improve food safety in Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.