



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 492

BEFORE THE HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY:

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National Association of Women Business Owners – Cleveland Chapter
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Chairwoman Anielski, Vice-Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Elizabeth Radivoyevitch and I am testifying today on behalf of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in support of HB 492, which would create a women's business enterprise certification program in Ohio. I am the proud owner of a women's business enterprise, RAD Graphics, Inc., and an active member of NAWBO Cleveland - as well as a past President of our chapter.

Women business owners in Northeast Ohio that would like to compete for government and certain private business in other states are at a disadvantage. Many times, they are rejected for certifications that they would otherwise be eligible for if Ohio recognized women-owned businesses. Some examples of these restrictions from other states are illustrated here:

Kentucky: Out-of-State Businesses ONLY: An out-of-state business must apply to the Kentucky MWBE program using the same business name under which it has been certified by a governmental certifying entity in the state where the principal place of business is located. The Business must possess current certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Women Business Enterprise (WBE) from its home state, (i.e. the state where the principal place of business is located). <https://mwbe.ky.gov/Pages/eligible.aspx>

Indiana: Out-of-state firms must have equivalent certification from its state government agency. Proof of state certification must be provided with the certification application packet. City, county, commission and council certifications do not fulfill this requirement. <http://www.in.gov/idoa/mwbe/2492.htm>

Tennessee: Out-of-State individuals seeking certification with Go-DBE must be certified in their home state of residence and submit evidence of their existing certification at the time of registration.
https://tn.diversitysoftware.com/upload/customer/tn/CertApp/Tennessee_CertificationOverview.pdf

Ohio has helped small businesses with recent tax policy decisions and a focus on removing unnecessary regulation through the Common Sense Initiative among other policy initiatives. House Bill 492 further advances these policy goals by removing barriers and providing women-business enterprises the tools to grow their business in Ohio and throughout the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation. On behalf of NAWBO Cleveland, I urge you to favorably pass House Bill 492 and open the doors for Ohio's Women Business Enterprises to grow.