



House State and Local Government Committee
May 24, 2018
Proponent Testimony- House Bill 492
Lori Kershner, Ohio Policy Director of EBW 2020

Chairman Anielski and State and Local Government Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 492.

EBW 2020 is global movement giving inspired women of purpose and impact access to mentorship, community, education, financial literacy and a powerful network to succeed as leaders and entrepreneurs. Using technology & community, EBW is democratizing and scaling mentorship for women with a mission to “change the ratio” and with a goal to Empower a Billion Women by 2020.

EBW is on a mission to empower women to build a global sustainable future through the elevation of women, and to demystify and democratize access to capital resources for women everywhere.

We applaud Representative Gonzales for her leadership on behalf of woman-owned business owners in Ohio. This effort is exactly in line with EBW’s goal to “change the ratio” for female business owners.

Women-owned business enterprises (WBEs) are a powerful force not just in the supplier diversity space, but also throughout the American economy.

The Women-Owned Business Enterprise program will help both government and private businesses find WBEs and verify them when looking for diversity in their contractors. The more we can do to elevate and provide access and exposure to these business owners, the better they can be positioned for growth.

This exposure will have significant impact for WBEs of all sizes looking to expand their footprint and grow not only in Ohio but in neighboring states.

The tracking and reporting of contracts received by women-owned businesses required in the bill will ensure that administrators of the program produce significant results. Data collected during the initial phase will help build the program into the future.

By allowing DAS to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states having similar programs, this will substantially open the door to more business opportunities for Ohio WBEs. This will result in positive economic impact to our state.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of women-owned businesses in Ohio. EBW applauds this work supporting, encouraging and elevating female business leaders.