



Testimony before the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

On behalf of the Ohio Auctioneers Association

in Opposition to Senate Bill 255

April 11, 2018

By Wade Baer, Baer Auctioneers-Realty, LLC

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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. My name is Wade Baer. I am a third generation auctioneer and real estate broker with Baer Auctioneers – Realty, LLC and I am on the Ohio Auctioneers Association Board of Directors where I chair the Advocacy Committee. I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 255 regarding occupational licensing on behalf of the Ohio Auctioneers Association (OAA). The OAA is a non-profit organization established more than 75 years ago. We represent nearly 400 auctioneers who are mostly small business owners. Since 1942, the OAA has continued to grow in strength and fellowship and is an association committed to improving and promoting higher standards in the auction profession.

Ohio auctioneers have been singled out a few times in testimony before this committee in regards to SB 255, so we thought the committee would appreciate hearing the perspective of the industry.

While we understand and agree with the spirit of the legislation to reduce unnecessary government regulation, we see value in the licensing structure for auctioneers and do not believe the process is a hindrance to entering our profession. We support having licensure and regulation for our profession governed by the Department of Agriculture. We will strongly oppose any

effort made to de-regulate our profession. State regulation is intended to protect consumers and ensures auction professionals in the State of Ohio are knowledgeable and qualified. As Senator Obhof stated "There are important things we need to do protecting the health and safety" of the citizens of the State of Ohio. To me, the health and safety of Ohioans' assets and/or investments are just as important. Hundreds of millions of dollars every year pass through the hands of auctioneers licensed in the State of Ohio. Under Ohio law, auctioneers are covered by a recovery fund that is put in place to protect your constituents and allow them to be made financially whole in the case of any wrong doing committed by an Ohio licensed auctioneer. By undoing the license law on auctioneers, you could potentially open up our industry to anyone, trained or otherwise, and leave your constituents at risk of being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous "auctioneer".

Thank you allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony.