

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business®

February 21, 2017

The Honorable John Eklund
Chairman, Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund:

On behalf of the 25,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio (NFIB/Ohio), I am submitting this letter to express our support for Senate Bill 9. This bill establishes another three-day sales tax holiday in August for back-to-school items such as clothing, school supplies, and instructional materials. During this period, these items will be exempt from Ohio sales and use tax.

By all accounts, the sales tax holidays in 2015 and 2016 were resounding successes not just for the “big box” retailers, but also for the small retailers on “Main Street” in Ohio. According to a study conducted by the University of Cincinnati (UC), the 2015 sales tax holiday created a net gain of \$4.7 million for the State of Ohio. We also must acknowledge that other purchases were made during the holiday that were not exempted under the law, contributing to this total amount. These extra purchases may not have occurred if families were not out shopping in Ohio due to the sales tax holiday, and instead spending money out of state or on-line.

Another illustration of the sales tax holiday’s success was the impact in Ohio’s border communities. Per the UC study, border counties in Ohio recognized a 15.48% increase in sales tax collections during the 2015 sales tax holiday. There is currently no state bordering Ohio that has adopted a sales tax holiday and extending the pilot for another year will allow us to maintain the momentum from 2016.

We respectfully ask for favorable consideration of this legislation. NFIB/Ohio may consider a vote on Senate Bill 9 a Key Small Business Vote of the 132nd Ohio General Assembly.

Sincerely,



Jared K. Weiser
Member Benefits Program Manager

cc: Members of the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee
Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof
Ohio Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni