

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: MAY 21, 2019

Name: Rep. JACK CERA & Rep. Gary Scherer

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): OHIO House of Representatives

Position/Title: STATE Representatives

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Telephone: 614-466-3735 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 238

Specific Issue: SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 4-5 mins

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

ATTACHED

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*



**REP. JACK CERA & REP. GARY SCHERER**  
Joint Sponsors on HB 238  
Whistle Blower Protections

Civil Justice Committee – Rm 018  
May 21, 2019

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Civil Justice Committee, we are here today talk about House Bill 238, a proposal to expand protections for the men and women who are willing to speak out about illegal activities going on at their workplaces.

If a private or public sector employee becomes aware of illegal activity going on at work, they should be able to tell someone about it without fear of retribution. Taxpayers deserve to have a more accountable government and workers in Ohio should not have to tolerate illegal activities going on at their workplace.

HB 238 gives public sector employees options, when it comes to who they can report to with illegal activity. It spells out more prohibited types of retaliatory actions that could be taken against whistleblowers. Whistleblowers that are retaliated against can take greater civil action to get fair relief of their injuries.

For the private sector, employees that reasonably believe illegal activity is going on at their workplace are given more options on how to report their concerns. This bill also gives them more protections from more types of retaliatory actions as well as further legal recourse to take civil action if they are retaliated against.

In Ohio, there should not be barriers to keeping our government accountable from the inside. No worker in our state should be silenced when they are ready to speak out about illegal activity at work.

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the Civil Justice Committee, thank you for your time. Rep. Scherer and I urge you to support this bill and we would be glad to answer any questions.