



## **Testimony on House Bill 251 Before the House Civil Justice Committee**

**Chris Murphy, Board Member  
Ohio Receivables Management Association**

**October 8, 2019**

Good afternoon Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. My name is Chris Murphy. I am an attorney and a member of the board of the Ohio Receivables Management Association. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this afternoon to discuss a proposed amendment to House Bill 251 being offered by joint sponsor Rep. Hillyer. We are appreciative that both sponsors, Reps. Lang and Hillyer, have been willing to work with us to address our concerns with the bill.

As you know, House Bill 251 seeks to amend O.R.C. 2305.06 and 2305.07 to shorten the statute of limitations on written and oral contracts. House Bill 251, as introduced, would have taken the statute of limitations for both oral and written contracts from six and eight years, respectively, to just three years for both. The proposed amendment would reduce those periods to four and six, respectively, and apply O.R.C. 2305.06 to credit card accounts and accounts for goods or services.

The Ohio Receivables Management Association (ORMA) consists of companies whose primary business is receivables management and collecting on the outstanding obligations that are owed to first-party creditors. Our members provide services to universities, not-for-profit hospitals, physicians, service-providers, utilities, credit unions, area banks and other types of businesses. All of our members have brick and mortar operations in this state and are small businesses providing jobs to Ohioans.

Our primary job, each day, is to have conversations with consumers who are behind on their obligations. More often than not, we are dealing with Ohioans who fell behind in financial obligations due to life changing events. This could be a death in the family, job loss, being a young person just graduating from college and striking out on his/her own, or becoming a new parent for the first time. These events require time to gain financial footing, sometimes over a period of years. It is our experience that most people want to pay their debts but simply need time to do so.

While we would obviously like to keep the current law in place as it is, we are willing to work with other interested parties to reach a compromise on this issue. With the proposed amendment added to House Bill 251, ORMA will withdraw its opposition to the bill.

Thank you again for your time, and thank you to the joint sponsors for their efforts. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.