



**House Civil Justice Committee
House Bill 606
Proponent Testimony
Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee I appreciate the opportunity to present supportive testimony on House Bill 606.

My name is Ryan Augsburger. I am vice president and managing director of public policy at the Ohio Manufacturers' Association. As you know the OMA represents Ohio's manufacturing industry and advocates to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

For manufacturers to invest and grow in Ohio, and to compete globally, Ohio's civil justice system must be rational, fair and predictable.

Ohio has made great strides in reforming its civil justice system over the past decade, and longer. The primary aim of the state should be to preserve those tort reform gains, in areas such as punitive damages, successor liability, collateral sources and statute of repose, which are protecting consumers without unduly burdening businesses, while positioning Ohio as an attractive state for business investment.

House Bill 606 clearly intends to maintain Ohio's competitiveness by responding to the temporary emergency situation to prevent a proliferation of questionable lawsuits that could plague businesses during a time of fragile economic recovery.

While the Association supports the tone and tenure of the bill, we ask the Committee to support enhancements outlined by the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice on behalf of the broad business community.

I wish to highlight the importance of one such enhancement needed to provide immunity to the makers of protective gear and other emergency products.

In early April, in response to the COVID-19 challenges, The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA), Ohio Hospital Association (OHA), Ohio Manufacturing Extension Program (Ohio MEP), nursing homes and JobsOhio have joined forces through the Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19. This collaborative effort is engaging manufacturers to see which companies have interest in repurposing their manufacturing operations to produce some of the most in-demand products in the fight against COVID-19, especially products for the health care industry. I've attached a list of news stories on repurposing activity.

Ohio historically has a deep industrial base and is a manufacturing powerhouse. Because of embedded know-how, Ohio manufacturers are able to pivot to retool and repurpose their operations to help meet the immediate need for personal protective equipment and other products needed in the fight against COVID-19. The innovation and responsiveness of our manufacturers – and their supply chains – are bearing fruit immediately and will be critical to the recovery of the state.

The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance sent out a call for help producing PPE and more than 1,500 manufacturing companies responded. This reinforces what we know about Ohio companies, they are generous and will answer the call when needed. Together, we are going to protect our protectors and strengthen our manufacturing sector.

It would be a travesty if we failed to protect these manufacturers from frivolous lawsuits. We commend Representatives Grendell and Seitz for their work on this important legislation and we implore you ensure the final version includes protections responsive to this need.

That concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to follow up to provide any additional information. Thank you.



Ohio Manufacturers: Helping Lead the Fight Against COVID-19

The following are some of the news stories that the OMA has shared on its social media channels (from March 2020 to present) to spotlight Ohio manufacturers who are helping their communities by either donating or producing protective gear to protect lives in the fight against COVID-19. This is Ohio manufacturing at its best. If you know of a story that should be included on this list, [email Jamie Karl](#) with the OMA staff.

Jergens produces a high-end screwdriver used for ventilators; CEO Calls on Ohio leaders to expand manufacturing

IPC addresses PPE shortage by producing gowns for health care workers

Piqua printing company making masks

Out-of-the-box creation help protect hospital workers treating coronavirus patients

Columbus-Based Milspin Invents 'Key' to Flatten Curve

FJM Inc. in Miamisburg has made more than 40,000 masks

Duck Tape company in Avon donates respirators to Avon Hospital

Fuyao donates 1 million disposable masks, medical supplies

Whirlpool's Ottawa Operations Donate Face Mask Extenders to Local Health Care Providers

Honda Begins Making Ventilator Parts for COVID-19 Patients

Nanofiber Solutions Shifts from Organ Healing to Air Filtration in Response to COVID-19

Lean manufacturing thrives amid coronavirus crisis

Ohio molder Pragmatic Manufacturing partners with Wittmann to make health care parts

How GM and Ford joined the fight against the coronavirus

Ohio manufacturers helping each other by making personal protective equipment

[Ohio Rep. George Lang: Take advantage of the Ohio Emergency PPE Makers' Exchange](#)

[Online marketplace connects Ohio PPE manufacturers with in-need organizations](#)

[FastLane at University of Dayton Research Institute helps boost production of isolation gowns](#)

[Exchange opened for makers of Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[Dayton-area groups partner to produce thousands of PPE units](#)

[Boardman food manufacturer trying to keep up with demand during coronavirus pandemic](#)

[As Many Americans Stay Home, Factory Workers Continue Production Around the Clock](#)

[COVID-19: P&G, Brain Brew Whiskey and United Way will distribute 100,000 masks](#)

[Cleveland Clinic receives 15,000 masks from sports-apparel manufacturer Fanatics](#)

[Waynesfield-Goshen Makers Den 3-D prints equipment for medical professionals and businesses](#)

[Cleveland company approved to make swabs for coronavirus testing](#)

[Russells Point company pivots, makes face shields](#)

[GOJO, Lubrizol to donate hand sanitizer bottles for every patient room in hospitals over three counties](#)

[Team Wendy, CLE manufacturer of protective gear for first responders, makes 10,000 masks for local hospitals](#)

[P&G expanding donations, making more masks and sanitizer to combat Covid-19](#)

[Troy garage company makes pop-up healthcare facilities](#)

[In Ohio, the Amish take on the coronavirus](#)

[Ohio groups work together to make critical testing supplies](#)

[ROE Dental Laboratory in Independence answers the call to produce much-needed test swabs](#)

[Mentor manufacturer donating 500,000 face shields to both local and national hospital systems](#)

[Editorial: Diverse Ohio firms show how to manufacture hope](#)

Bluffton company manufacturing coronavirus testing booths for local hospitals

Owens Illinois: O-I 3D Prints Face Shield Frames for Northwest Ohio Medical Workers

Cleveland company gets federal approval to produce ventilators

Candle company manufacturing 40,000 face shields

Eaton Corp. making tool to help you avoid touching surfaces

North Ridgeville Manufacturer Mobilizes Die-Cutting and Materials Conversion Expertise in Fight Against COVID-19

Ohio companies pivot to supply coronavirus needs, keep workers busy

FDA approves Mentor-based company to use sterilization system for N95 mask

Ohio companies continue to innovate through tough times

Area companies produce PPE for hospitals

GM Doubles Face Mask Production to Fight Coronavirus

Holland firm pitching in to help build face shields for health care workers

Ohio companies come together to fill a hand sanitizer need for first responders

Saving lives and securing a new future for Ohio manufacturing

19 Ohio manufacturers team up to make face shields for Ohio hospitals

Local companies team up to make face shields for health care workers

Ohio manufacturers teaming up to create up to 1 million face shields

GLI Keeps Making, Donating Masks to Fill 'Great Need'

Pandemic creates time of uncertainty, change for manufacturers

Central Ohio businesses manufacture, distribute PPE for medical workers

Norwalk Furniture shifts production to PPE

Sherwin Williams donates 250,000 PPE items to those on the frontlines of COVID-19

GM offers manufacturing blueprints for face masks to 600 auto parts suppliers amid virus pandemic

Ohio 3D printers rally to manufacture personal protective equipment

How one local manufacturer is stepping up amid coronavirus outbreak

Tiffin company helping produce emergency supply of air filter cartridges for medical respirators

Advanced Manufacturing's Moment: Making Supplies for the War on COVID-19

Transportation supply chain pivoting operations in support of medical professionals

Toledo man using 3-D printers to make face shields for doctors and nurses

The biopharmaceutical industry's unique role in responding to COVID-19

Coronavirus in Ohio: Amish community shifts to making protective equipment

Local company making plastic protective shields

Coronavirus: P&G making Safeguard hand sanitizer, also unbranded masks

Coronavirus Forces Manufacturers to Adapt

PPG to Donate 80,000 Masks to Hospitals to Support Coronavirus Relief Efforts

Major aerospace firms act to counter COVID-19

Honda pivots production to plastic shields

Worthington Industries donates more than 800 N95 masks to OhioHealth

Ford, GE aim to make 50,000 ventilators in 100 days

Automakers pivot to battle against COVID-19

Ventec Life Systems and GM Partner to Mass Produce Critical Care Ventilators

Plaskolite producing face shields, protective barriers

Wood component maker Cooper Enterprises responds to virus with new cashier shields

Northeast Ohio manufacturer is working around the clock to help fight COVID-19

Manufacturing workers proud to battle coronavirus pandemic

How Manufacturers, Engineers Are Stepping Up to Solve COVID-19 Challenges