



**House Bill 219
Written Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Commerce & Labor Committee
June 12, 2019**

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 219, legislation that modernizes the Sunday Sales law to allow sales of alcohol products on a statewide basis rather than by local option.

By way of background, as President of the Ohio Grocers Association I proudly represent over 300 food retail, wholesale and supply companies across the Buckeye state. My members range from the largest chain stores to the smallest “mom and pop” independent grocers as well as some convenience stores and of course the food wholesalers who supply these stores.

OGA members provide access to customers across the state for many of your household consumer goods, including various types of alcohol products. We take pride in the level of service we provide our shoppers and the age-verification measures we mandate every day of the week. While we recognize the resources some of our members have invested to achieve local options to sell alcohol on Sunday, we believe a statewide approach will lead to increased benefits for consumers, businesses, and the state alike.

House Bill 219 allows a retail liquor permit holder or agency store to sell beer, wine, mixed beverages, or spirituous liquor on Sunday during the same hours that the permit holder or contract holder may sell those products on Monday through Saturday, thus providing uniformity for retailers. Furthermore, the bill will eliminate customer confusion while providing increased convenience for shoppers in our stores.

We commend the leadership of Representative Becker and Representative Hoops for their sponsorship and urge favorable consideration of House Bill 219.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mullins
President & CEO
Ohio Grocers Association

