



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

OPPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 219

October 2, 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 write in opposition of HB 219.

HB 219 infringes on Home Rule authority by eliminating local option elections concerning Sunday sales of beer or intoxicating liquor. As granted by Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution, cities and villages have the right to local control. Political subdivisions are unique and face challenges specific to their local community. Rarely is there a one-size-fits-all solution to the issues Ohio's municipalities face. Local control gives cities and villages the ability to find solutions to their locally-specific challenges.

Local option elections put decision-making power directly into the hands of Ohio's citizens. Eliminating those elections in turn eliminates the voice of the people, taking away their right to weigh in on decisions unique to their community. Local issues should be worked out on the local level, and HB 219 preempts municipality's right to local governance.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge your opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League