



**House Bill 312: Intrastate Crowdfunding
Written Testimony
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Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Crossman, and members of the Ohio House Financial Institutions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding intrastate crowdfunding, House Bill 312 (HB 312). The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) and its small business division, the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE), represent the most comprehensive small, middle market, and large business organization in the state with more than 12,000 business members in Northeast Ohio. On behalf of our members, we appreciate the opportunity to offer support for intrastate crowdfunding in Ohio.

Securing traditional sources of capital for the small business community can still serve as a challenge; barriers and excessive paperwork can impede progress. Fresh funding opportunities and mechanisms to meet the need are welcome and can assist in a business' effort to grow. Access to capital promotes stability and greater predictability and can allow entrepreneurs to create jobs and thrive in an ever-changing environment.

Additional ways for the business community to gain needed assets and leverage different funding streams can also aid our state economy and make Ohio even more attractive than our regional, national, and global competitors. The importance of continuing to make strides to maintain an economic environment conducive to startup entrepreneurship cannot be understated and the need for Ohio not to lose ground on strides made in other states is critical to our collective success.

GCP and our partners have long been in favor of expanding access to early stage capital and we support our entrepreneurs in numerous ways daily. We are appreciative of Representative Powell's leadership and her colleagues desire to implement creative financing and programming in Ohio. The goal of this legislation is a step in the right direction and we welcome the opportunity to continue working with you to foster a strong, vibrant business community in Ohio.