



Written Testimony
House Bill 312: Intrastate Equity Crowdfunding
House Financial Institutions Committee
Thursday, October 31, 2019

Chairman Jordan and Members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee. Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) would like to thank you for the opportunity to share this written interested party testimony regarding House Bill 312, legislation that permits Ohio to participate in intrastate equity crowdfunding to raise operating funds for Ohio businesses as permitted by federal law.

My name is Jason Warner and I am the Manager of Government Affairs at the Greater Ohio Policy Center. Greater Ohio is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization with the mission to improve the communities of Ohio through smart growth strategies and research. Our vision is a revitalized Ohio.

GOPC has reviewed HB312 and sees great potential with the enactment of this bill for assisting Ohio's Legacy Cities rebound from decades of decline. HB312 will allow entrepreneurs to create jobs and revitalize communities that have long suffered from the loss of industry.

Legacy cities in Ohio and across the United States were the engines of the country's prosperity for decades. Despite population loss and economic shifts, today these older industrial communities are the home of millions of people and remain important contributors of new economic activity. Arguably, Ohio has more legacy cities than any other state in the country. To assist these cities in regaining their full potential, GOPC brings best practices and innovative policy solutions to Ohio by conducting original research based in Ohio and nationally and substantially contributing to national networks.

HB312 has the great potential to generating millions of dollars in investment in start-up and existing businesses in Ohio by permitting intra-state crowdfunding, thereby allowing these Ohio-based businesses to raise up-to \$5 million in capital. That type of investment will allow these businesses and the communities where they are based to grow, creating new opportunities for economic growth.

We know that residents in these cities often struggle to access capital and credit, and that is especially the case for businesses that require small, but vitally important, amounts of capital. We appreciate the opportunities HB312 offers to Ohioans who want to invest money, and their support, in entrepreneurs, micro-businesses, and small businesses within their community.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on House Bill 312.