



HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
Proponent Testimony on HB 115  
Wednesday April 10, 2019 3:00 PM  
Room 122

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 115.

My name is Micah Derry, and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Our organization is dedicated to breaking internal and external barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country’s biggest problems, and uniting activists in 35 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.

The steady accumulation of regulations here in the state of Ohio has left us with an unwieldy, burdensome and inefficient behemoth of “red tape.” This system is often harming the very people it intends to protect—with a particularly negative impact on our state’s most vulnerable.

The accumulation of red tape— the actual requirements, prohibitions and restrictions created through administrative action — makes it harder, even impossible in many cases, for people to realize their full potential. Overly burdensome rules and regulatory accumulation disproportionately impact the least fortunate, slow wage growth, and ultimately prevent workers and businesses from contributing meaningfully to their communities.

A [research initiative](#) from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University found that last year the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) contained 246,852 restrictions and 15.2 million words. According to that research, it would take an individual about 847 hours, or more than 21 weeks, to read the entire OAC.

This enormous regulatory burden creates a drag on our state's economy and has a significant impact on individual lives. H.B. 115 would aim to systematically reduce unnecessary, outdated and overly burdensome regulations that should no longer be on the books. The bill calls on the administrative state to assess the effectiveness, necessity, and impact of regulations across the board, with the goal of reducing total restrictions in the OAC by 30 percent over the next three years. This is an ambitious but necessary goal that would remove barriers to opportunity, reduce compliance costs, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and ultimately unleash individuals to succeed.

Americans for Prosperity is strongly supportive of HB 115 and the reduction of red tape across the board. We urge this committee to advance this important legislation to the House floor for a vote this session.

Chairman Wiggam, thank you for this opportunity to testify, I am happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Micah Derry

State Director

Americans for Prosperity Ohio

*Our mission: Americans for Prosperity exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate*