



June 29, 2020

The Honorable John Eklund
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, and Ranking Member Thomas, on behalf of 33,000 Ohio REALTORS®, we thank you and the Senate Judiciary Committee for your continued leadership during these very challenging times. We are grateful to Representative Grendell for her introduction of House Bill 606, a bill to protect Ohioans against frivolous, predatory lawsuits relating to the transmission of COVID-19.

We write in support of Amended Substitute House Bill 606 as it is a timely and appropriate piece of legislation to provide civil protections of healthcare workers, businesses and individuals who may potentially face a frivolous lawsuit related to the transmission of COVID-19.

Over these past several weeks during the Emergency Order, Ohio REALTORS® and other real estate professionals have been able to safely continue helping clients buy and sell homes, complete commercial real estate transactions, and help residential tenants find apartments among the numerous other real estate-related activities our members perform for their clients. There are many professionals who play a critical role in Ohio's \$99.6 billion real estate industry, and we appreciate this legislation's goal of protecting those individuals against baseless lawsuits.

There is much unknown about this virus and how it uniquely impacts each person. Despite our members' best efforts at following Centers for Disease Control and Ohio Department of Health guidelines to protect and sanitize, there may be unknown and unintentional transmission of COVID-19. Ohio REALTORS® are working diligently to ensure the safety of their clients, their properties, and themselves during this unprecedented and frightening time. Amended Substitute House Bill 606 provides much needed certainty and protection from those who wish to capitalize off this pandemic despite our members following federal and state safety guidelines and best practices.

As thousands of professionals and businesses across the State of Ohio reopen and welcome clients and customers, we are encouraged by the Senate Judiciary Committee's commitment to this important bill, and we are grateful to Chair Eklund for his expeditious work on this legislation. We respectfully ask the committee to approve Am. Sub. HB 606.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Williams
Chief Executive Office
Ohio REALTORS®

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