



Proponent Testimony on behalf of House Bill 601 – To create a definition of Microbusiness
before the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee
November 29, 2016

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Good Afternoon Chairman Young, Vice-Chairman DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

My name is Sheri Chaney Jones and I am the Vice President of Public Policy of the Columbus Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO – Columbus) which has been an advocate for microbusinesses in Ohio. I am also the owner of Measurement Resources Company, LLC, an organizational development and research firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. We work with government and nonprofit organizations to help them become more effective and efficient. We have been in business for eight years and currently employ five full-time professionals.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 601 and I would like to thank Representative Pelanda for introducing this important piece of legislation.

According to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners and Self Employed Persons, women-owned business in Ohio generate \$44 billion dollars in revenues annually. The average firm size of the 29,000 women-owned business with employees in Ohio is only 1.3 employees. Most of NAWBO members are seeking support and strategies to grow their overall economic impact and organizational size. However, most of the State of Ohio programs for small business are not geared to the specific needs of the microbusiness owner. NAWBO Columbus supports House Bill 601 because it recognizes the unique challenges of microbusiness. We believe House Bill 601 is a very important first step which can lead to future initiatives and efforts designed to strengthen microbusinesses. These initiatives can help microbusinesses grow to small businesses and beyond. This growth of microbusiness will have significant benefit to Ohio's economy and tax base.

Chairman Young and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 601 that recognizes microbusinesses in Ohio. I urge your favorable vote on the bill and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.