



Chairman Ron Young
House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Young and members of the House Economic Dev., Comm. and Labor Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to express support for House Bill 263. If enacted, HB 263 will provide restaurant owners with the decision as to whether they wish to allow dogs onto their outside dining areas.

Under current law, restauranteurs could be unknowingly violating state law and face fines and other penalties. Small “mom-and-pop” restaurant owners are more likely to be unaware of current law, or even question why they do not already have the ability to make this decision for themselves and their customers. To that end, in my professional opinion, passage of HB 263 has the potential to boost revenues for small businesses, given that they are more likely to take advantage of the law than large corporate chains.

Over the past several years, dogs have become friendly companions to millions of Ohioans, and essentially members of their family. Thus, it seems only suiting that consumers be allowed to choose where they dine based on their ability to bring their dog. Further, the current version of HB 263 includes various food safety provisions that will ensure all restaurant patrons have safe and enjoyable dining experiences.

Chairman Young, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 263. If you or any committee members should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brandon S. Ogden
President, Small Business Consultants of Ohio, LLC
sbcoho.com