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Good morning, Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke and Ranking Member Clyde. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving us the opportunity to speak on SB 293, the Regulatory Reform Bill.

Earlier this year, several members of the Senate stood in front of the press and announced some staggering statistics on Ohio's regulatory restrictions from a study done by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. According to their study, Ohio has the third highest number of regulations of the 22 states so far studied by the researchers: 246,852. According to their numbers, the average number of regulations is 148,682. Senator McColley and I are proud to present this legislation that will not only aim to reduce our overly regulated environment, but at its heart, seeks to change the culture of our state government.

Senate Bill 293 will require our Department level agencies and four additional commissions to establish a base inventory of their regulatory restrictions, review their rules thoroughly, and then reduce them by 30% in three years, with benchmarks of 10% each year. If these agencies do not meet this reduction goal, then for every regulation they propose to add, two must be removed. This bill also establishes a statewide regulation cap: the State as a whole cannot have more regulations than 70% of the original statewide base inventory.

Through the Senate Committee process, several changes were made. First, the requirements were placed on at the Department level, instead of at the agency level, to both widen the focus and relieve some pressure on smaller agencies. Also, a website will be created so that individuals and businesses can directly report to JCARR what regulations cause the greatest limitations and struggles. Additionally, an appeals process was added so that if an agency truly feels that they are unable to meet the reduction target, they will be able to go to JCARR and ask for a lesser reduction goal. Finally, an update was added so that if JCARR feels that a rule should not have been rescinded, they can restore it.

SB 293 is an important step in reducing the government's impact on Ohioans lives and businesses. We need to know how many restrictions we have, we need to systematically review them, and we need to eliminate the rules that are unnecessary. Thank you for the chance to speak about SB 293; we are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.