



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BECKER
HOUSE DISTRICT 65

June 13, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee: Thank you for allowing me to offer sponsor testimony for House Bill 649.

For those of us who committed to a platform of less government and lower spending, HB 649 kicks off that process by starting with our own salaries. Others will think that it is truly awful, but under HB 649, Ohio will remain in the upper tier of legislative compensation.

HB 649 is the Average Wage Fully Uniform Law (AWFUL). About two years ago, a citizens group, Ethics First, circulated petitions to put similar legislation on the ballot. I thought it was a good idea. HB 649 ties each state legislator's salary to Ohio's median household income. Leadership positions continue to get the same percentage bump that they are getting now.

HB 649 removes the political considerations of legislators' salaries and replaces them with economic considerations. As Ohioans' median household income rises, so shall legislative salaries. This bill provides us with a personal financial incentive to promote statewide economic growth. Our salaries will rise or fall with our constituents.

Consider that it has been 10 years since legislative pay has increased. What if another 10 years pass without any action? The longer we wait to tie our salaries to an index, the greater the political considerations will become.

Since AWFUL is indexed to a reliable indicator of Ohio's economic performance, no legislator will have to tackle the issue of raising legislators' pay again. House Bill 649 provides legislators a robust incentive to create business-friendly policies that keep jobs and create new ones, thereby strengthening Ohio's economy into one in which families and businesses keep more of their hard-earned money.

I would like to thank each of you an AWFUL much for your time and consideration, and I welcome any comments you may have.

Committees:

**Ways and Means
State and Local Government
Vice Chair, Federalism and Interstate Relations**

Contact Information:
**77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Email: rep65@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614-466-8134**