

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

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Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 293
Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Development Committee

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Good afternoon Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Development Committee. I am Lora Miller, Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations for the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants here representing our more than 7,500 members in support of Senate Bill 293 to require Ohio's state entities to reduce regulatory restrictions by 30% before December 31, 2022.

Lawmakers have for many years sought to curtail the regulatory power of state agencies, boards and commissions based on the recognition that over-regulation stifles business development and growth. In 1977, the legislature created the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review to review proposed new, amended, and rescinded rules from state agencies to ensure they do not exceed their rule-making authority granted to them by the General Assembly. In 1994, a bill was enacted creating the Sunset Review Committee to "consider and evaluate the usefulness, performance, and effectiveness" of state agencies. Two years later, the late State Representative Robert E. Netzley saw enactment of a bill creating the five-year rule review process. Most recently, in 2011, the Common Sense Initiative was enacted.

Despite all of these legislative efforts to reign in state agency overreach, the Ohio Administrative Code continues to expand. I knew Representative Netzley very well and I can tell you that he would be appalled that instead of reducing state regulations, his five-year rule review concept actually encourages the creation of new or expanded regulatory restrictions. The statute is not prescriptive enough to force state entities to eliminate existing regulations and state regulators are not going to do so without a legislative mandate. It's a quagmire that needs resolved.

By setting definitive parameters and dates specific, Senate Bill 293 is the prescription needed to cure the current ill that plagues business development and growth in Ohio. We applaud President Obhof and sponsors Peterson and McColley for taking on Ohio's regulatory quagmire.

Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 293 and I'm available to try to answer any questions you may have.