



Senate Bill 293: Regulatory Restrictions
Written Testimony
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Chairman LaRose and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 293 (SB 293) on behalf of our members. The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is the largest Chamber of Commerce in the country and represents the most comprehensive small, middle market, and large businesses in the state with more than 10,000 business members.

As you know, SB 293 would require state agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions by 30% over the course of three years. Regulations can take many forms and most employers generally recognize and understand the importance of enforcing state laws with succinct rules related to unique markets, industries, and structures. Our members' interest in SB 293 and the logic behind GCP's support for this bill is clear: regulatory restrictions should continually be evaluated and focus on consistency and predictability – especially for small and middle-market businesses that may struggle to understand and comply with tedious, demanding mandates.

GCP has also been a long-time advocate for regulatory reform and continues to be a strong supporter of Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI). Two GCP volunteer members serve on the CSI Small Business Advisory Council, a panel charged with helping state government achieve the right balance of regulations to make the Ohio business community ultra-competitive, while placing a priority on protecting Ohio's citizens from harm. CSI's work has provided a solid foundation by reviewing thousands of rules since its inception to address and dismantle cumbersome, outdated regulations. GCP believes CSI's work is critical and we strongly recommend it continue.

Requiring an agency to inspect rules for regulatory restrictions and consider whether the rule should be amended or rescinded to eliminate the restrictions, in the manner SB 293 suggests, is also a commendable goal and we urge swift passage of the bill. Nimble, long-term planning for all parties will be essential to eliminate potentially surprising risks and minimize costs that could be passed on to the consumer, brought on by steep deadlines related to rules or regulations.

In closing, we applaud Senate President Larry Obhof, Senator Bob Peterson, Senator Robert McColley and others for introducing this legislation. GCP appreciates the opportunity to provide our input and welcome the chance to harness our members' experience by working with state agencies and policymakers on the implementation of this regulatory reform initiative.