

Kevin Bacon

3rd Ohio Senate District



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**Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 9
February 15, 2017
Senator Kevin Bacon
Senate Ways and Means Committee**

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 9, the Ohio Sales Tax Holiday. Senate Bill 9, if passed, will create a sales and use tax exemption on certain back-to-school items during the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August in 2017. The intention of the sales tax holiday is to provide families with a tax break on back-to-school shopping while also stimulating economic activity for businesses.

The tax exemption will apply to items of clothing costing \$75 or less per item. It will also apply to school and instructional material costing \$20 or less per item. There is no limit to the number of items that a consumer may purchase tax free. The exemption does not include clothing items such as those used in a trade or business, accessories, or sports or protective equipment. "School supplies" is defined as items commonly used by

a student in a course of study and are explicitly listed in the bill, including items such as book bags, crayons, erasers, notebooks, pencils, and pens. "School instructional materials" means reference books, reference maps and globes, textbooks and workbooks.

Many of you may recall the first two sales tax holidays which were passed during the 131st General Assembly. These events were highly advertised in every part of the state and very popular with Ohio residents. My office received letters of support from students, businesses, and educators following the first two sales tax holidays. Last General Assembly, I also received a letter of support from the Trumbull County Commissioners stating that, "[t]he tax free purchases not only lightened the burden on working class families, it also put a little extra back in their pockets." The Trumbull County Commissioners went on to encourage the General Assembly to make the sales tax holiday a recurring event.

For timing reasons, I introduced this legislation because it must be passed in both the Senate and House and signed by the Governor before May 1st in order to be effective for the first weekend of August and for it to be in compliance with the streamline sales and use tax agreement.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.