

**Kevin Aleman**  
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**Sub-House Bill 692 Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Hambley, Vice-Chairman Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Sub-House Bill 692, which seeks to modernize and update the Ohio Revised Code as it pertains to executing estate planning documents.

My name is Kevin Aleman, I am a licensed attorney in Florida and a founder of the digital estate planning company Willing, which was acquired by MetLife in 2019. Our service has helped hundreds of thousands of families create their estate plans online, across every state in the US, including Ohio. Now, as the head of Digital Estate Planning at MetLife Legal Plans, I come before you today to ask for your help in allowing Ohioans to sign their estate plans online.

I think we can all agree that the COVID-19 crisis has required all of us and every industry to make adjustments in our everyday lives, both at work and at home. Today's technology, along with videoconferencing has allowed many of us to carry on our duties despite the lack of in-person contact this year. This crisis has also showed us that many state laws need updating to match the available technology options that have empowered us to move forward in these difficult times. This is especially important for those in the vulnerable and elderly population who may not be able to meet in-person for several months to even years.

That is why I am testifying in support of Sub-HB 692; today's technology can help those who cannot meet in-person execution requirements to create or update their estate planning documents. The pandemic has made it almost impossible to create or update these critically important documents without meeting face to face with a stranger as currently required by statute. To make matters worse, the health crisis caused by the pandemic has made it more important than ever to have an estate plan in place.

Currently, Ohio law allows you to create estate planning documents, such as wills, electronically but does not allow you to execute those documents online. In Ohio, you are unable to have your will signed and witnessed online by utilizing video conference. You are required to print the documents and find two disinterested witnesses who you must meet with face to face.

With that said, I would like to now present the committee with a demonstration of how our company currently assists those seeking to create and execute estate planning documents entirely online, which we hope to do in Ohio should Sub-HB 692 become law. I will also note we have spent the summer giving similar demos to both the Ohio Bar Association and Ohio Probate judges. Many of the updates reflected in the sub-bill come from those very productive

conversations, and I would like to express my gratitude to both organizations for their willingness to work on such an important piece of legislation.

Thank you again Chairman and members of the committee. After the demo I would be happy to address any questions the committee may have.