



**Representative Janine Boyd**  
**9<sup>th</sup> House District**

**Representative Kristin Boggs**  
**Assistant Minority Leader**  
**18<sup>th</sup> House District**

**Sponsor Testimony**  
**HB 593-Pandemic Paid Family and Medical Leave**

Good morning Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and esteemed Members of the Ohio House Committee on Commerce and Labor. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our joint testimony with you all today on HB 593.

House Bill 593 is a pandemic relief bill that will provide some solace to Ohioans who are forced to miss work because of COVID-19. While there are those who believe the path to stopping the spread of COVID-19 should not include government action, the pandemic continues to alter life as we know it and a growing number of Ohioans have to choose between their health and their ability to feed their families or keep a roof over their heads.

As we prepare this testimony, Ohio has experienced 414,000 positive cases and 6,399 COVID deaths. An elected government has a responsibility to act on behalf of its people, and create access to ways out of this very kind of dangerous and relentless distress.

Too many Ohioans are now on the verge of experiencing further distress as multiple expiration dates, specifically related to unemployment, are approaching. Below for your review and convenience, we have included an outline of these dates and the number of Ohioans who will be adversely affected, according to JFS.

- Work search requirements are starting December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is ending December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation is ending December 26<sup>th</sup>
- 513,744 total number of continuing claims for the week of Nov. 8- Nov. 14.
- 136,887 – Receiving Unemployment Insurance

The question we present to you today is this, what can we as elected public servants do to create access to a way out of some of this distress for suffering Ohioans?

We have no eviction protection in place, the Federal government is ending assistance, the job market is shrinking, and too many Ohio businesses can't or don't offer any form of paid medical leave.

The answer, we believe, is to pass HB 593.

HB 593 creates a State-run grant program for contact workers who are unable to perform their work due to an individual or immediate family member being quarantined or isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation will also require every employer, during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued March 9, 2020, to provide 14 days of quarantine or isolation pay to an employee. In addition, this bill requires every private sector employer, this period, to provide each of the employer's employees one hour of sick leave for each completed 30 hours of service performed by the employee during the one-year period before the bill's effective date, up to a maximum of 56 hours.

Thank you Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and esteemed Members of the Ohio House Committee on Commerce and Labor for taking the time to hear from us and learn about the value this emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave bill will have in the lives of Ohioans during the COVID-19 pandemic.