



State Representative Cindy Abrams
Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 671
House State and Local Government Committee
May 27, 2020

Rep. Abrams

Chairman Wiggam, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for allowing us to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 671, the Continuation of Commerce Act, which would place limits on public health orders and prohibit disciplinary action against a licensee for engaging in permitted activities during a pandemic.

I am sure by now we have all witnessed firsthand how the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated businesses across Ohio. The complete cease of normal operations and halting of the economy has put an immense financial burden on local business owners.

Our businesses are the backbone of America. Owners and employees have invested time, effort, money, sweat and tears into building their businesses to serve Ohioans and our economy.

I am proud of the strength they have shown over the past two months so that we as a state could get through this together. Unfortunately, that is not the case for every business, and not everyone will have the financial means to come back from this.

This legislation seeks to protect our businesses and license owners from any more harm as we navigate through this crisis. Our people and our economy have suffered enough, which is why House Bill 671 is so crucial.

We stand with Ohio's small business owners who are ready to get back to work.