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November 5, 2019

Representative Derek Merrin
Chair, Ohio House Ways & Means Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Merrin:

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 22,000 governing members of NFIB in Ohio to lend support for House Bill 135, legislation expanding the class of products eligible for Ohio's annual sales tax holiday. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.

NFIB has long supported a sales tax holiday for back to school purchases. We appreciate the legislature finally making it permanent through Senate Bill 226 from the 132nd General Assembly. Our retail members have benefited greatly through increased activity in their businesses surrounding this family-friendly event.

We appreciate Rep. Antani looking at ways to enhance Ohio's sales tax holiday. The cost of school supplies and clothing can be significant, especially when more than one student is in a household. Additionally, many students are doing their work on computers, the cost of which can be substantial. Expanding the holiday to allow for sales tax relief on such items helps individuals and families keep more of their hard-earned money. Our retail businesses appreciate the "buzz" surrounding Ohio's sales tax holiday and we believe this brings more foot traffic into their stores. We continue to view the weekend as a win for consumers and small businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 135. We support the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Ferruso".

Christopher J. Ferruso
Legislative Director