



**House Bill 669
Written Proponent Testimony
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
September 1, 2020**

Chair Hoagland, Vice-Chair Schaffer , Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 669 legislation that aims to help bars, restaurants and other retail food establishments recoup some of the lost revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly, amendment language added in House Commerce Committee would allow many of our members who have state liquor agencies the ability to deliver alcoholic beverages to customers in a controlled manner.

By way of background, as President of the Ohio Grocers Association I proudly represent over 400 food retail, wholesale and supply companies across the Buckeye state. My members range from the largest chain stores to the smallest "mom and pop" independent grocers as well as some convenience stores and of course the food wholesalers who supply these stores.

Many OGA members house state agency liquor stores and we work diligently with the state to provide quality service and offer new and unique products to our customers. The amendment language referenced above will provide a potential new opportunity for both the state and select liquor agencies to benefit and provide a new opportunity for consumers to access these products in a safe and secure manner.

This legislation provides another tool for businesses to innovate within our state liquor three-tier system while offering creative opportunities for consumers. Accordingly, the Ohio Grocers Association urges the committee to favorably pass House Bill 669.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mullins
President & CEO
Ohio Grocers Association

