

STATE OF OHIO

*Executive Department*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Christopher J. Ferruso, from Westerville, Franklin County, Ohio, as a Member of the Public Benefits Advisory Board for a new term beginning September 17, 2019 and ending at the close of business June 30, 2022, replacing Christopher J. Ferruso, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I  
have hereunto subscribed my name  
and caused the Great Seal of the State  
of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this  
17th day of September in the year of  
our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

*Mike DeWine*

Mike DeWine  
Governor

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT:**



**CHRIS FERRUSO**  
**Legislative Director**  
**National Federation of Independent Business**

Chris Ferruso is the legislative director for NFIB's Ohio overseeing public policy advocacy and government affairs for the organization's 22,000 members statewide. He has been in this position since April of 2010. Mr. Ferruso joined NFIB in April of 2007 as the Ohio Member Benefits Manager. In this position he managed the administration and marketing of the NFIB member benefits program in Ohio as well as representing small employers on a state agency advisory council. He currently serves as chair the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice, a coalition dedicated to improving and preserving a fair and balanced civil justice climate.

He came to NFIB after four years in the office of then-Ohio State Senator Steve Stivers. Mr. Ferruso first served as the administrative assistant to the senator before being promoted to the position of legislative assistant.

Prior to his work in the Senate, while he was still an undergraduate student at the Ohio State University, Mr. Ferruso participated in the NFIB Legislative Internship Program in Ohio. It was during this time that he became familiar with the mission of NFIB while also having an opportunity to meet many of the members around the state. Also, while he was a student, Mr. Ferruso served as a page in the Ohio House of Representatives where he had a first-hand opportunity to learn about the legislative process.

Mr. Ferruso holds a degree in political science from the Ohio State University. He resides in Westerville with his wife Melissa and two sons Nicholas and Jack.

# CHRISTOPHER FERRUSSO

407 Six Pence Circle • Westerville, OH 43081 • 614-578-5792 • ferruso@hotmail.com

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## Personal Profile

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A dedicated and skilled business professional with a versatile management and customer service skill set developed through experience as an administrative and legislative aide, member benefits manager and legislative director.

A motivated and proactive individual with a strong knowledge of the legislative and executive processes obtained through over ten years of combined public and private sector interaction.

An energetic and enthusiastic individual committed to creating a business-friendly environment.

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## Key Skills

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Legislative & Executive Agency  
Interaction  
Political Action Committee  
Experience

Benefit Program Administration  
Budget Management  
Contract Evaluation & Negotiation  
Registered Lobbyist

Meeting & Event Planning  
Political Campaign Experience  
Employee Oversight

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## Experience

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National Federation of Independent Business, Columbus, OH

2007 to Present

### ***Legislative Director, 2010 – present***

Serve as the voice for the nearly 25,000 Ohio members before the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio executive agencies. Provide written correspondence to legislators as well as oral testimony before legislative committees on pending legislation and key small-business issues. Regularly meet with elected officials to promote and preserve a positive small-business environment. Keep current all legislative content for website. Frequently meet with membership to update and engage on pertinent legislation. Develop and present to members, informational programs on public policy issues. Represent the organization as the spokesperson before the media. Work with staff and members to develop a comprehensive political action program to endorse and elect pro-small-business candidates.

#### ***Results:***

Successfully advocated for the passage of key pro-small-business legislation including repeal of Ohio's estate tax, regulatory reform overhaul, reduction in liability to businesses on written contracts, and income tax cuts.

Provided strategy, guidance, and implementation of a six-figure Political Action Committee fund.

Achieved a 90% success rate in election of endorsed candidates including retaining or electing 33 dues paying members of the Ohio General Assembly.

Formulated the establishment of the Ohio House of Representatives Small Business Caucus where legislators gather to discuss legislation and ideas that impact Ohio's small businesses.

### ***Member Benefits Program Manager, 2007 - 2010***

Oversight of all member benefit programs for Ohio membership, including workers' compensation programs with over 10,000 participating companies. Interact regularly with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation including serving as legislative appointment for state-fund employers on the Labor Management Government Advisory Council. Participate in contract negotiations for existing and potential new products. Write copy for and edit workplace safety publications. Host and manage nine annual safety seminars. ***Results:***

Oversight and growth of revenue generating workers' compensation programs in conjunction with third party administrator. Recognized seven percent growth in member participation in first year.

Advocated successfully before the Ohio General Assembly to prevent the elimination of a workers' compensation program that has provided membership with over \$750 million in premium savings.

Helped write Ohio Administrative Code for new 100% Premium Cap Program.

**Chairman 2011 – present****Assistant Secretary 2011**

Advocacy group formed to promote and protect a fair and predictable civil justice climate in Ohio. Work with and on behalf of business interests by lobbying the Ohio General Assembly and statewide elected officials on legislation related to the tort and civil justice arenas. Oversee legal counsel in filing of amicus briefs before Ohio appellate courts and the Ohio Supreme Court. Develop and manage budget and membership recruitment. Present to groups on important legal issues. **Results:**

Promoted passage of positive civil justice legislation including preservation of property owner rights and reduction in liability on written contracts.

Preventing passage of expansion of state false claims act that would subject Ohio businesses to new avenues in which to be sued by the state.

Directed filing of several amicus briefs including one leading to the Ohio Supreme Court upholding a key component of Ohio's tort law.

**Legislative Aide 2004-2007****Administrative Assistant 2003 to 2004**

Promote senator's legislative agenda, through researching public policy ideas and laws in other states. Communicate with the public and media on senator's initiatives and accomplishments. Orchestrate the Senate Insurance, Commerce Labor Committee. Organized numerous meetings at the office and represented the senator at functions throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate district comprised of three-hundred fifty thousand constituents. Maintain daily oversight of office operations including managing three employees. **Results:**

Managed several pieces of legislation through the legislative process from drafting to enactment.

Operated office including responding to constituent concerns, attending public events, and promoting legislative agenda while senator was deployed on active duty.

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**Membership**

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**Board of Directors 2010-2015**

The Ohio Prosperity Project is a joint endeavor between business organizations and employers, and the Business Industry Political Action Committee whose goal is to identify and elect champions of free enterprise and foster greater business participation in the political process.

Oversaw development, approval and disbursement of multiple informational pieces on statewide ballot initiatives, key business legislation and free-market candidates to business group and employers.

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**Education**

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**Bachelor of Arts, Political Science**

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Date:** 9/17/2019

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**Name of Appointee:** Mr. Christopher J. Ferruso

**Address:** 407 Six Pence Circle  
Westerville, OH 43081  
Franklin County  
(H) -  
(W) - 6142214107  
(M) - 6145785792

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**Name of Commission:** Public Benefits Advisory Board

**Contact:** Steve Morris / Pamela Pate  
77 South High St., 26th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 466-6289

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**Term Begins:** 7/1/2019

**Term Ends:** 6/30/2022

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate

**Financial Disclosure:** No disclosure required

**Vice:** Christopher J. Ferruso