Testimony to House Bill 166 – Business Tax Deduction

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June 4, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, my name is Christy Farnbauch and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) -Columbus Chapter. NAWBO Columbus has a longstanding history in the greater Columbus area. We are currently the largest chapter in the nation and pride ourselves in elevating women business owners through connections, advocacy, and mentorship.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to the proposed changes to the Business Investment Income Tax Deduction. The impact of reducing the deduction from $250,000 down to $100,000 as well as increasing the 3% tax on income over that amount will be significant as a majority of NAWBO members will be impacted by this tax increase. Also, this tax increase is retroactive to January 1, 2019 and not included in the tight budgets under which a lot of our members operate.

The *2017 American Express Report on the State of Women-Owned Businesses* found that women businesses make just $.25 on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. In addition, that same report found that Ohio is one of 5 states where women-owned businesses have the least economic clout.

Taxes are high and we support the reduction of the income tax, but please do not shift the burden onto the shoulders of small business.

Thank again for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.