



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**
OHIO

SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM COMMITTEE
Proponent Testimony on SB 1
Tuesday May 7, 2019 3:15 PM
South Hearing Room

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Craig, Members of the Committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1.

My name is Micah Derry and I am the State Director of Americans for Prosperity – Ohio. Americans for Prosperity is the nation’s largest free market advocacy group, with tens of thousands of activists right here in Ohio.

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, AFP is driving long-term solutions to the country’s biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. We empower people to improve their lives and the lives of those around them by removing barriers that prevent them from reaching their potential.

One major barrier facing the people of our state is the enormous burden of our current regulatory system. SB 1 represents an unprecedented opportunity to compressively and systematically begin to reform our broken system and lift that burden for millions of Ohioans.

The steady accumulation of regulations here in the state of Ohio has left us with an unwieldy, burdensome and inefficient behemoth of “red tape.” This system is often harming the very people it intends to protect—with a particularly negative impact on our state’s most vulnerable.

The accumulation of red tape— the actual requirements, prohibitions and restrictions created through administrative action — makes it harder, even impossible in many cases, for people to realize their full potential. Overly burdensome rules and regulatory accumulation disproportionately impact the least fortunate, slow wage growth, and ultimately prevent workers and businesses from contributing meaningfully to their communities.

A [research initiative](#) from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University found that last year the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) contained 246,852 restrictions and 15.2 million words. According to that research, it would take an individual about 847 hours, or more than 21 weeks, to read the entire OAC.

This enormous regulatory burden creates a drag on our state's economy and has a significant impact on individual lives. SB 1 would aim to systematically reduce unnecessary, outdated and overly burdensome regulations that should no longer be on the books. The bill calls on the administrative state to assess the effectiveness, necessity, and impact of regulations across the board, with the goal of reducing total restrictions in the OAC by 30 percent over the next three years.

This is an ambitious and necessary goal that would remove barriers to opportunity, reduce compliance costs, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and ultimately unleash individuals to succeed. Passage of SB 1 would unnecessary remove barriers and unleash Ohio's potential and make it a leader in the region for prosperity and opportunity, while allowing agencies to continue to uphold and enforce effective regulations that protect the public from significant harms.

Americans for Prosperity is strongly supportive of SB 1 and the reduction of red tape across the board. We urge this committee to advance this important legislation to the House floor for a vote this session.

Chairman Coley, thank you for this opportunity to testify, I am happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Micah Derry

State Director

Americans for Prosperity Ohio