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**Angela Lloyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation  
Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 301**

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 301.

I am Angela Lloyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation (“the Foundation”). The Foundation’s mission is to improve access to justice and ensure that legal aid societies and other resources, programs, and services address the unmet civil legal needs of low-income and underserved Ohioans.

Ohio’s legal aids serve the very people Senate Bill 301 seeks to protect, Ohioans struggling to make ends meet. Last year, Ohio’s legal aid organizations helped almost 141,000 Ohioans, including veterans, domestic violence survivors, seniors, children, and families. Today, Ohio’s legal aid attorneys are first responders for the coronavirus pandemic, working to ensure that Ohioans stay stably housed; are able to access financial supports during the economic downturn; and, can obtain appropriate medical care. Over the next year, the need for civil legal services in Ohio will grow dramatically as Ohioans struggle to recover financially from the crisis and its effects.

The financial hardships that attend the current pandemic warrant efforts to protect hardworking Ohioans from price gouging and hoarding included in Senate Bill 301, including our front line workers who keep our grocery stores, our hospitals, and our essential services running. These committed Ohioans, many working extended hours, face unthinkable choices if vital supplies like hand sanitizer, toilet paper, milk or eggs become unattainable because prices are artificially inflated or shelves are empty. As we now know far too well, an emergency is the most vital time to ensure that all Ohioans can find and buy necessities.

As you consider Senate Bill 301, please think about Ohioans like those living in West Dayton in the Salem Avenue Corridor. These fellow Ohioans currently have to take three buses to get to a grocery store. Happily, legal aid is working with the community to facilitate the development of the Gem City Market, which will provide both healthy food and good-paying jobs in the neighborhood. Nevertheless, at present, residents still must travel outside their neighborhood for food and necessities. Imagine that, because of hoarding, these residents made their hour-long, three bus transfers trip only to find empty shelves at the grocery store. Just like their legal aid lawyers can help them bring a grocery store into their community, Senate Bill 301 can help them ensure access to affordable necessities. This protects all Ohioans in the long run.

During emergencies, like COVID-19, Ohioans deserve to be protected from having to leave their homes not only to track down essential items for



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themselves and their families, but also from finding those items unaffordable due to price gouging.

I would like to thank Senators Manning and Wilson as well as Attorney General Yost for their work on this important legislation. Should the committee have any questions, I can be reached at [alloyd@ohiojusticefoundation.org](mailto:alloyd@ohiojusticefoundation.org).

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Angela M. Lloyd, Executive Director

