



U.S. Public Interest Research Group

U.S. PIRG Testimony in support of S.B. 301

Thank you to the Judiciary Committee and bill sponsors for their work, for the opportunity to provide testimony, and to the Attorney General for directing attention to S.B. 301. U.S.PIRG supports this legislation's protections for consumers in Ohio. As [research](#) by U.S.PIRG Education Fund has found, price gouging has been and continues to be a rampant problem during the coronavirus crisis. This bill addresses a lack of crucial protections against price gouging.

While most states have laws to protect consumers against price-gouging, Ohio does not. 33 attorneys general around the country, including Attorney General Yost, [joined](#) the call to stop price gouging on online marketplaces. Consumers are reaching out for help, [filing](#) record numbers of price gouging [complaints](#). States with laws against price gouging have the ability to address these complaints with enforcement [actions](#) by their attorneys general. Passing a law against price gouging is necessary to allow the Attorney General's office to take actions as most states do to deter abuse of consumers and to get a remedy for consumers who have been harmed by price gouging.

Sincerely,

Evan Preston
Director, New Economy Campaigns
U.S.PIRG