



Representative Jon Cross

Ohio's 83rd House District

Thank you Rep. Wilkin. Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking member Antonio, and members of Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity for to give sponsor testimony on House Bill 621, which is so important to small businesses in these difficult times.

Rep. Wilkin did a great job explaining the bill and I'm going to provide the committee with some examples. A simple example:

Big Box store is deemed essential and allowed to remain open during a state of emergency. With Mother's Day Approaching I could go to Big Box store with hundreds if not 1,000's of people per day yet, I cannot go to my locally owned jewelry store who serves a fraction of the people on a daily basis yet depend heavily on those clients. This legislation allows them to stay open provided they meet the proper guidelines and safety standards.

(Rep. Cross will provide some other examples from small businesses).

This bill provides a simple solution to protect our small businesses right now and in the future. The local mom and pop stores have been terribly hurt in these last few months due to government mandated shut downs. We want to give them the same treatment as large corporations are given.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and we would be happy to answer any questions.