



State Representative Adam C. Miller

Sponsor Testimony Before House of Representatives Commerce and Labor Committee regarding HB 46 (as prepared)

Thank you members of the committee, Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, and Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan. I also want to thank the Joint Sponsor, Representative Carruthers for her dedication and leadership on behalf of Ohio's small businesses and their employees.

HB 46 is a simple bill that can make giant strides helping Ohio's economy begin to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- HB 46 waives the liquor license fee for any qualified permit applicant that wishes to renew its current liquor license.
- Lifts the arbitrary cap of 30% of gift cards going to the purchase of alcohol.

Ohio's restaurants have taken a major hit with the pandemic. Small businesses have closed. Their workers are left finding other jobs in a tight job market. If we are going to get Ohio rolling again, we have to help these small businesses get back on their feet; get their employees working again.

One of those restaurants to close is La Scala in Dublin, Ohio. It closed late last year – and had to lay off 55 employees. 55. One restaurant.

Nearly a fifth of Ohio's approximately 25,000 restaurants are facing the threat of closure because of the pandemic.

Waiving the liquor license fee for a current holder applying this year, isn't a lot of money. But when you are operating a business on the margin, every penny helps.

Waiving the limit on gift card use for alcohol purchases helps businesses by not hamstringing consumer choices. It reduces the administrative costs on businesses.

These changes will not solve all the problems facing restaurants in Ohio. By providing this assistance, at low and no cost to taxpayers, we can help the thousands of businesses and their employees in Ohio recover and adapt to the COVID -19 pandemic.

I thank the committee for your time and attention to this important issues and I would be happy to answer any questions.