



Representative Shane Wilkin

Ohio's 91st House District

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking member Upchurch, fellow members of Economic and Workforce Development committee, thank you for the opportunity for Representative. Cross and I to give to sponsor testimony on House Bill 215, The Ohio Business Fairness Act.

If you value Ohio business, both small and large, here in Ohio then HB 215 is for you. If you believe in the ingenuity of the Ohio workforce, then HB 215 is for you. If you believe in the entrepreneurial spirit we so often talk about here in Columbus, then HB 215 is for you. Yes, Committee members, it is really that simple. HB 215 is a pro-Ohio Bill.

The Ohio Business Fairness Act does just what the title says, it allows ALL businesses in Ohio, from big chains to small mom and pop stores, to compete

equally for customers during the difficult economic times such as we are facing right now. During an emergency, a pandemic, or bioterrorism attack if a business is required to cease or limit operations they will be able to partially reopen should they meet the safety standards which other businesses who sell similar products and are deemed essential are required to meet. We are simply leveling the playing field. Yes, in most cases, we are leveling the playing field for smaller, family owned and operated businesses. However these very businesses are going to have the hardest time coming back from extended shutdowns. If you talk to any business owner today, they will tell you that their number one asset is a good employee. As a small business owner myself, I can absolutely attest to that. Many of these will be businesses where the employees are husbands and wives, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles....Family. Families who have built a business through blood, sweat, and tears. All they are asking for is a chance to compete and keep their dream alive.

I will now turn it over to my colleague, Rep Cross for some specific examples of HB215.

Rep. Cross...