



Ohio Small Business Council

April 12, 2021

The Honorable Jay Edwards
Chairman, Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee

RE: House Bill 215 Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Edwards:

On behalf of the Ohio Small Business Council (OSBC), I write to you in support of House Bill 215; legislation that would create the Business Fairness Act and is a reintroduction of HB 621 from the 133rd General Assembly.

The Ohio Small Business Council is one of eight standing committees of the Ohio Chamber and serves to promote and protect the establishment, growth, and vitality of small business in Ohio. Members of this council are business owners who employ less than 400 people, many of them having much less than that. We want to thank Representatives Wilkin and Cross for reintroducing the Business Fairness Act and supporting Ohio businesses.

HB 215 will allow any business – to remain open or reopen – that can demonstrate compliance with any safety precautions a government order or regulation requires of businesses permitted to continue operations. We believe this is an important bill, especially given the timing of it and the issues many small businesses are having as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

However, there are new provisions included in HB 215 that were not included in HB 621, and these new provisions reference the timeline by which orders, rules, or regulations may remain in place on impacted businesses. These provisions are still under review by OSBC, and we do not have a position on those. That being said, the spirit behind HB 215 and allowing businesses to remain open so long as they can comply with orders, rules, or regulations, is something that OSBC strongly supports.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support of HB 215 at kboehner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "B".

Kevin Boehner
Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy