



*BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 109
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021*

Chair Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 109. My name is Kevin Boehner, and I am the Director of Small Business and Workforce Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

First, we would be remiss if we did not thank Senators Manning and Rulli for bringing this important bill before the committee today.

SB 109 provides for emergency grant funding to local fairs, indoor entertainment venues, new businesses, and small businesses. All the groups above have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and this bill brings targeted assistance to help them through these difficult, unprecedented times.

The group I am going to focus on in my testimony is small businesses. Small businesses, in particular, have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Small Business Relief Grant Program was created late last year and was designed to provide necessary relief to Ohio businesses that have been negatively impacted by the effects of COVID-19.

The continuation of this program through the funding included in SB 109 will continue to provide a lifeline to small businesses. Businesses would be eligible to apply for grants of \$10,000. These funds can be used for any of the following:

- Personal protective equipment to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19.
- Measures taken to protect employees, customers, or clients from COVID-19.
- Mortgage or rent payments for business premises (personal residences explicitly excluded).
- Utility payments (excludes utilities for personal residences and cellular phones not used primarily for business purposes).
- Salaries, wages, or compensation paid to contractors or employees, including an employer's share of health insurance costs.
- Business supplies or equipment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions that you or the committee may have.