

Merry Korn  
CEO  
Pearl Interactive Network, Inc.  
1103 Schrock Road, Suite 109  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

May 2, 2021

Dear Chairman Shaffer:

My name is Merry Korn, and I am the CEO of Pearl Interactive Network, Inc. Our firm, a Columbus based company, provides call center services on the behalf of the federal and state markets. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the women-owned business loan fund as contained in House Bill 110 which would provide \$10 million over the biennium for small loans to women-owned businesses in Ohio.

As the owner of a 1,000 plus employee company, funding has been and continues to be a challenge for growing our business. I am aware of a 78% disparity between women vs male owned companies. Categorically, access to funds is one of the common denominators impeding success for women business owners that range from start up to more seasoned, mature women owners

I thank you, *Governor DeWine, and Director Mihalik* for recognizing the need to provide support to *women businesses owners* and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important program. I urge your support and favorable vote for the full \$10 million women-owned business loan fund as proposed in the executive and the House-passed budget.

Sincerely,



Merry Korn  
CEO  
Pearl Interactive Network, Inc.  
1103 Schrock Road, Suite 109  
Columbus, Ohio 43229