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March 30, 2022

### **Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Written Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 302**

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Insurance Committee, my name is Andy Swaim. I am the Director of Government and External Affairs for the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council (OCTC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 302 (SB 302).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemistry industry. Ohio is the third largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. The chemistry industry in Ohio employs more than 40,000 people, pays an average wage of over \$85,000, and ships more than \$5.6 billion in products worldwide every year.

The OCTC represents employers that fund Ohio's unemployment compensation system. It is vital to our members that the unemployment system is both fully funded and efficiently managed. Ohio's unemployment compensation system was tested during the COVID-19 pandemic, and unfortunately failed on several fronts.

OCTC supports SB 302, which will address several critical flaws in the current unemployment compensation system. The bill would specifically open up pipelines of communication between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and other state agencies. Requiring these entities to communicate is important to reducing the amount of fraud and overpayments in the system. SB 302 would also help our members directly by providing for an updated online employer portal for reporting potential cases of fraud.

OCTC supports these changes to Ohio's unemployment system which will help to ensure that our member's contributions are being managed responsibly. OCTC urges passage of SB 302 to make these vital improvements to the state's unemployment compensation system. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important measure.