



**Our mission**

To act as the Ohio property and casualty insurance industry's voice on matters affecting or involving the industry.

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***Ohio Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee***

***SB 113 (Rulli, Johnson)***

***Written Testimony from Michael D. Farley, Esq, VP, Government Affairs and General Counsel***

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, and Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. The Ohio Insurance Institute (“OII”) is a trade and information association of more than 55 Ohio-based property and casualty insurance companies and related affiliate organizations. OII members write approximately 87% of the auto insurance in Ohio. And OII members write about two-thirds of the commercial insurance in the state. I am Michael Farley and I serve as the Vice President, Government Affairs and General Counsel for the OII.

The OII is a leading safety advocacy organization. We seek to inform the public and public policy makers about potential outcomes based on proposed policy proposals where safety is a consideration. Today, we seek to bring your attention to the potential ramifications of legalizing consumer grade fireworks. The proliferation of consumer grade fireworks will likely lead to more injuries to Ohio children. SB 113 is a wide-open provision to endorse the use of consumer grade fireworks in Ohio. The OII implores the Committee to think about the safety impacts to those using fireworks and those in the surrounding area.

As we approach the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, no doubt we will start to see news stories about significant injuries from the use of consumer-grade fireworks. We encourage you to think about these injuries and how this bill will likely lead to additional injuries as you continue your deliberations on this legislation.