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Standing Committees
Transportation, Ranking Member;
Behavioral Health;
Finance;
Government Oversight;
Public Health Policy;
Economic & Workforce Development

Michele Grim
State Representative

Before the House State and Local Government Committee

House Bill 537 – Junk Fee Elimination Act

Sponsor testimony provided by Representative Michele Grim

November 13th, 2024

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and all members of the Commerce and Labor committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 537. I would also like to thank my joint-sponsor Representative Munira Abdullahi.

Ohio families are struggling with high costs, and big corporations are forever seeking new ways to raise prices to pad their profits.

Whether they're called "service fees," "processing fees" or "convenience charges," these predatory fees cost American consumers an estimated \$90 billion a year. These fees may pop up when you pay buy a car, pay your credit card or cellphone bill, order delivery for dinner, and even when you pay your rent.

The Junk Fee Elimination Act will crack down on deceptive pricing and protect consumers by requiring that all businesses display the total price of items and services, including mandatory fees, in a clear manner. There are exceptions for government taxes and for delivery fees that must be disclosed before the supplier accepts payment.

The money Ohio families are losing to junk fees is money we're not saving, investing, or spending on actual goods and services. Because these fees are not disclosed or explained, we often do not realize this money has been charged for this purpose until it's gone. This bill will not only help consumers but also foster fairer competition in the marketplace by prohibiting bad actors from distorting their prices.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally and all members of the Commerce and Labor committee, thank you so much again for the opportunity to share testimony. I would be happy to take any questions the committee may have.