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Ohio House District 09 – N Columbus, Westerville & New Albany

Commerce & Labor Committee

H.B. 537 Sponsor Testimony

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Good Afternoon, Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and Commerce & Labor Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity for me and Representative Grim to provide sponsor testimony on **H.B. 537, the Junk Fee Elimination Act.**

Junk fees are additional, often hidden charges that businesses tack onto the cost of goods or services. While these fees may seem minor on an individual transaction, they quickly add up, contributing to billions of dollars in profit for companies each year. This practice, which is both misleading and unethical, disproportionately affects consumers and undermines their ability to make informed financial decisions.

At a time when many Ohioans are facing unprecedented financial challenges, junk fees exacerbate the strain on household budgets. While corporations are enjoying record profits, working families are struggling to stretch their incomes. Consumers are forced to pay arbitrary, inflated costs for essential services and products—many of which are unavoidable. Whether it's booking a hotel room, purchasing tickets for travel or events, or paying for banking services, these hidden charges erode the purchasing power of our constituents.

Companies are "nickel and diming" working Americans with exorbitant service fees and add-ons that drive up the final price of everyday goods and services. This practice disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable citizens, who already feel the pinch of rising costs in essential areas like food, utilities, and healthcare.



With inflation at an all-time high and essential items like eggs and milk becoming more expensive, Ohioans are feeling the weight of junk fees more than ever. The **Junk Fee Elimination Act** would provide much-needed relief to families, particularly our working-class residents, by reducing the hidden costs that eat into their already tight budgets. For many, this bill would help ensure they can better manage the cost of feeding their families, paying for utilities, and covering medical expenses.

In conclusion, the **Junk Fee Elimination Act** aims to alleviate the economic burden on Ohio families by promoting transparency in pricing. By mandating clear, upfront disclosure of all fees, we can help consumers make more informed choices and encourage businesses to engage in fairer, more ethical practices. This bill would not only help Ohioans in their daily lives but would also contribute to a stronger, more accountable economy.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I look forward to any questions you may have.