

Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci and members of the Ohio House of Representatives committee for Economic & Workforce Development:

I am Eric Wohlwend from Canton Ohio. I am an Ohio Professional Housing Provider. I have hundreds of rentals as well as a management company. I appreciate your time in allowing me to testify today.

I have been buying, rehabbing and renting properties in Ohio for over 20 years. In all of that time I have never moved anyone in any of my properties without verifying a valid driver's license or other form of state identification. I have never found this burdensome in any way. Anyone doing showings can take a picture of the ID and email it to my office to be saved in the tenant's file.

In lieu of a state ID, I would also accept any of the other forms if ID you listed provided they had a picture. Again, we have always required this for anyone applying that is over 17 years old.

As well as providing housing for hundreds of families, I also pay taxes. Using these tax dollars to pay for non-citizens to live in cheaper housing is reprehensible. I am very much in favor of immigration... Legal immigration.

My family came here about 3 generations ago and they followed the laws as they were written at the time. They did not ask for government handouts. They just wanted a chance to build a new life in this new country. For generations our family has built bridges, houses and provided services. I have to wonder if we were given everything for free when we got here, would we have become addicted to the cheap housing and welfare?

I am here today to ask you to pass HB 547 so we keep Ohio tax dollars benefiting Ohio Citizens. I want to thank Representatives Wiggam & Gross for proposing H.B. 547. As one of the parties that will be affected when it passes, I believe it will make Ohio stronger. It will save tax dollars and it will not add any additional or burdensome work to responsible housing providers. Chair Swearington and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. If you have any questions for me, I would be happy to answer them at this time.

Thank you again for your time,  
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