



OHIO COUNCIL OF
RETAIL
MERCHANTS

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Brian Lampton, Chairman
Ohio House Insurance Committee
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Lampton and members of the House Insurance Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Amended Senate Bill 63, sponsored by Senator George Lang.

Founded in 1922, the [Ohio Council of Retail Merchants](#) is Ohio's oldest and largest advocate for the retail and wholesale industries, representing more than 7,500 establishments across Ohio. Ohio's retail and wholesale companies account for 18 percent of Ohio's total GDP and 1.5 million jobs, which is 1 in 4 of all Ohio jobs, more than any other industry.

The practice of over-naming defendants in asbestos-related lawsuits is far too common. Innocent victims and businesses get dragged into suits in which they have no relationship nor bear any responsibility, yet they are forced to incur legal fees to prove their innocence. Such unnecessary costs take resources away from legitimate financial obligations, which in turn ultimately drives up the price of goods and services that consumers need.

Amended Senate Bill 63 is a common-sense piece of legislation which, when enacted, will help curb the practice of over-naming in asbestos-related lawsuits by requiring plaintiffs to provide evidence providing for the basis of each claim. This will help protect the innocent from unwarranted legal action against them.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and passage of Amended Senate Bill 63.

Sincerely,

Lora Miller
Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs