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Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 184

Before the House Committee on State and Local Government

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Chairman John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 184.

House Bill 184 is a bill seeking to make some much needed changes to Ohio's Charitable Solicitations Law. Specifically, this bill would make the following changes:

1. Include collection receptacles that are seen in random parking lots under Ohio's Charitable Solicitations Law
2. Require a label on collection receptacles that provides the contact information of those operating the receptacle.
3. Expressly prohibit a charitable solicitation or charitable sales promotion from violating the federal Telemarketing Sales Rule which, among other things, prohibits initiating a telephone call that delivers a pre-recorded message.

I have personally observed several instances of collection receptacles in parking lots that are poorly marked, overflowing, and seemingly abandoned. This would allow the Attorney General office to have jurisdiction over these receptacles under the Ohio Charitable Solicitation Law.

The goal of this legislation is not to limit the number of charitable organizations. The goal is to provide transparency to those who are willing to make donations so that they know where their donations are going.

Besides the support of the Attorney General, this bill also has the support of donation organizations that are well established like Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries, whose CEOs voted unanimously in support of this legislation. I look forward to the committee hearing testimony from the Attorney General, Goodwill Industries, and others in the near future.

Chairman John and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I am happy to answer your questions.