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December 3, 2024

Representative Scott Wiggam
Chair, Ohio House State & Local Government Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Wiggam:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written, proponent testimony on Senate Bill 44, legislation that will streamline the occupational licensure application process in Ohio. We appreciate Senator Brenner for looking for ways to make interacting with government easier and more efficient.

By way of background, NFIB members come from all industry sectors in all 88 counties across Ohio. Our typical member employs 15 or fewer and has less than \$2 million in gross receipts. The diversity of our membership runs the spectrum of business operations from sole-proprietors operating out of their homes to large manufacturers that employ hundreds.

There are many occupations that require licensure by state government. With all the time, education, and training that goes toward obtaining eligibility for occupational licensure, anything that can be done to alleviate just one burden is welcome. With the ubiquity of electronic transactions and interactions, Senate Bill 44 just makes common sense. Importantly, the bill does allow for licensing entities to create a mechanism to accept paper applications, however they may not require.

Senate Bill 44 prescribes a single system for licensing entities to utilize to comply with the provisions of the bill. We are glad to hear that Senator Brenner is willing to work with interested parties to ensure any current processes for electronic submission are not disrupted by mandating one single electronic filing path. This will ensure continuity for these entities and their applicants.

We believe Senate Bill 44 will make interacting with state licensing entities easier and more expeditious for applicants for occupational licensure and respectfully request favorable action. Senate Bill 44 unanimously passed the Ohio Senate in June of 2023. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris J. Ferruso".

Christopher J. Ferruso
State Director