



**Testimony in Opposition to a Change included in Am. Substitute HB 33**

**By the Ohio Auctioneers Commission**

**June 8, 2023**

**Before the Senate Finance Committee**

**Senator Matt Dolan, Chair**

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Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chairman Cirino and Ranking Member Sykes:

My name is Wade Baer. I have made my living as a full-time, licensed auctioneer for 21 years and am the co-owner of Baer Auctioneers Realty in Columbiana County, Past President of the Ohio Auctioneers Association (2020), Current Chairman of the Ohio Auctioneers Commission and Current Chairman of the National Auctioneers Association Advocacy Committee. I am writing to provide testimony in opposition to the proposed changes to the auctioneer continuing education and online licensing.

Myself and other members of the Ohio Auctioneers Association worked for almost four years and through two General Assemblies to accomplish our goal of improving the future of our industry by adjusting the legislation of the past to meet the needs of the future. In doing so we had extensive talks with auctioneers from around the state including leaders of the largest auction companies. During those talks and while working in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Agriculture we were able to come to an agreement on legislation that worked for everyone and supported our industry the way it looks today. Thank to you to this body for passing the improvements to the Ohio Auctioneers Licensing law just last year.

Unfortunately, language was included in House Bill 33 that essentially eliminated any oversight of online auctions undoing what just went into effect in September and additional changes to the auctioneer statute that went into effect six weeks ago in April.

By having licensing for online auctions ensures that there is a layer of consumer protection and oversight as the number of online auctions will only continue to increase in Ohio.

I did want to also thank this committee and the Ohio Senate for your preservation of Auctioneer Continuing Education. Under current law those who become licensed to sell at online auction will be educated in best practices, contract & auction law, ethics and trust accounts among other valuable subjects. This not only helps new auctioneers, but I have spoken with online sellers who have enrolled in auction school that have had a great experience, learned new things and were using them to enhance their businesses.

The continuing education is intended to make sure that the auctioneers keep up on not only changing laws, but also the changing auction environment. Sometimes we, as auctioneers, are guilty of getting into a groove and becoming complacent. By allowing the electives in the continuing ed to be “best practice” provides auctioneers the opportunity to learn about different methods, trends or ideas that can possibly enhance their businesses, customer experiences and the profession as a whole.

Thank you allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on these changes. The Ohio Auctioneer Association represents a majority of auctioneers in the state of Ohio, and we respectfully ask that you remove the untested language (~~AGRC15 Internet sales exemption from auction laws R.C. 4707.02~~) that was added to House Bill 33 to undo what we have worked so hard to achieve in our changing industry.