



SENATOR STEVE WILSON

Government Oversight and Reform Committee

Senator Steve Wilson

March 8, 2023

Senate Bill 16

Good morning Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 16, which is identical to a bill I sponsored in the previous General Assembly, Senate Bill 333.

Current Ohio law provides immunity from civil liability to persons who donate perishable food to a nonprofit, *but only* if the nonprofit provides the food free of charge. This legislation will simply extend that immunity to nonprofits who charge the amount sufficient to cover the cost of handling perishable food.

The need for this legislation originates from a nonprofit in my area, La Soupe. La Soupe has done excellent work distributing meals to eighty-one partner agencies that serve the Greater Cincinnati region – this includes schools, community groups, pantries, and more. La Soupe takes donated perishable food and makes it into soup and other dishes. This model has proven to be a great success – and they only charge individuals in need the amount sufficient to cover the cost of handling the food.

However, because of the low rate that La Soupe charges, it was discovered that those who donate are not immune from civil liability. This bill will address this simple oversight by providing immunity to those persons who donate perishable food to La Soupe and similar nonprofits.

This is a straightforward bill. It simply insures we protect organizations that are working towards the public good. With that, I urge support for SB 16. I would be happy to take any questions that you have.