

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Bob Hackett, Chair  
Senate Insurance Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Senate Bill 63 – Written Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Hackett and Members of the Senate Insurance Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Ohio Business Roundtable, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 63.

The Ohio Business Roundtable is a statewide business association of CEOs and Presidents of the top companies in the state. We currently have over 100 members and the companies collectively employ over 500,000 Ohioans and generate a revenue of more than \$1.5 trillion, which helps support Ohio's economy.

The Ohio Business Roundtable supports policies that will strengthen the state's economic and workforce development, reduce onerous barriers for businesses, and—overall—foster an environment for businesses to invest and grow in Ohio while competing in the global economy.

A predictable, consistent and fair civil justice system is crucial to these tenets.

Under current law, businesses can be named in asbestos lawsuits without the plaintiff having to demonstrate the company has any connection to the case. This results in businesses having to pay significant legal fees to remove themselves from an unwarranted lawsuit, which also adds considerable strain to the legal system in the process.

Senate Bill 63 will protect Ohio businesses from the lawsuit abuse by requiring a plaintiff to file a sworn information form specifying the evidence that provides the basis for each claim



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against each defendant. Ultimately, the legislation will help instill trust in Ohio's civil justice system by putting in place common sense guardrails for asbestos lawsuits.

In the 1990's, Ohio employers experienced an onslaught of nefarious lawsuits where plaintiffs abused tort claims to secure their own profits, the effects of which stifled business growth in Ohio. When the Ohio Business Roundtable began in 1992, tort reform was one of our organization's fundamental priorities to protect businesses from the overreach of lawsuit abuse. While significant progress has been made on tort reform since then, instances of abuse remain, and the ability to over-name defendants in asbestos cases is one such example.

Ohio's business community deserves a fair and predictable justice system, and Senate Bill 63 provides such reliability. The Ohio Business Roundtable urges the committee's support on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Denney  
Vice President of Government Relations and Communications  
Ohio Business Roundtable