



December 13, 2023

The Honorable Nathan Manning
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Senate Bill 37– Written Proponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Manning:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 37.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Manufacturing is the largest of the state's industry sectors. In 2022, manufacturing contributed more than \$130 billion to Ohio's economy. In that year, manufacturing accounted for nearly 18% of Ohio's private industry GDP. According to the most recent data, nearly 700,000 Ohioans work in manufacturing, and manufacturing has the largest payroll of any Ohio economic sector.

Our state has seen an unprecedented amount of investment into the manufacturing sector and there is still more to be done in order to address the workforce needs of Ohio's manufacturers. Sustained growth in manufacturing productivity will require efforts to address barriers that currently exist, such as transportation. Senate Bill 37 would improve opportunities for Ohioans to be able to drive to work by removing financial barriers for those who have their driver's license suspended for non-dangerous driving reasons.

It is critical to the manufacturing industry that individuals are able to get to and from work. Ohio manufacturers need public policies that protect the state's manufacturing advantage, shaping the business environment in which manufacturers operate. Addressing transportation challenges is an important component to the state's business climate and this bill is a step in the right direction for Ohio's workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsey Short". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lindsey Short
Director, Public Policy Services
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association