



10 West Broad Street, Suite 2450
Columbus, OH 43215

614-221-4107
Fax 614-221-8677
www.NFIB.com/OH

February 27, 2024

Senator George Lang
Chair, Ohio Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Lang:

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 21,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Ohio to lend our support for Senate Bill 198. Senate Bill 198 has two major goals: to reduce recidivism and to help fill a workforce shortage faced by businesses of all sizes.

By way of background, a typical NFIB member employs 20 or fewer. Our members come from all industries in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

Senate Bill 198 will provide individuals leaving correctional institutions with necessary state identification, a resume including documentation of any trade learned and their proficiency with that trade, and record of a practice job interview, amongst others. These important supports will eliminate the need for returning individuals to have to attempt to obtain these materials on their own, making the path to employment significantly easier.

We continue to hear from our members that they have job vacancies they are unable to fill. In fact, our most recent Small Business Economic Trends survey indicates nearly 40 percent of our members are trying to fill open positions. Additionally, 55 percent said they have hired or tried to hire. Of those trying to hire, 89 percent reported few to no qualified applicants. The demand amongst our members is great for both skilled and unskilled labor.¹

We believe Senate Bill 198 will create a greater pool of job applicants and ultimately new hires for our members. This legislation is a win-win. Individuals reentering society will

¹ <https://www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends/>

have hurdles to employment reduced and our members will have the ability to hire these persons more expeditiously.

We applaud Senators Lang and Manning for their laudable goals and hope this committee will favorably report Senate Bill 198. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Ferruso
State Director