



**Representative Terrence Upchurch
20th House District**

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally and the members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 152.

HB 152 would allow employees to access their wages prior to payday and provides significant protections to the consumers of earned-wage access services (EWA). We believe our constituents should have access to the money they have earned when they need it, and they should not have to pay any added fees to access it. This pay on-demand system will help Ohioans when they need it most, in this time of extreme inflation it is important that people are able to access their money quickly and easily whenever they deem necessary. This bill also protects the consumer by providing no-cost options and prohibiting the EWA companies from over drafting bank accounts when retrieving funds that are owed. An additional layer of protection will be provided within the Department of Commerce's Division of Financial Institutions and would defend Earned Wage Access consumers by making the providers register with the Department.

There are several added layers of protections including the following:

- Providers must offer consumers a no-cost option for accessing their funds.
- If the consumer cannot repay, the provider CANNOT take them to court, garnish their wages or report to debt collectors.
- The provider is not permitted to report repayments to credit reporting agencies or require credit scores.
- Providers must also repay overdrafts/ nonsufficient funds feed that occurred when recovering funds from a consumer's bank account.

This legislation would help many Ohioans that need to access their money prior to their pay date. If you are working every day and have expenses every day, you should have access to your money more frequently. Thank you all for the opportunity to testify on HB 152, I urge a yes vote and am open to answer any questions from the committee.

Committees:

Ranking: Small Business Committee
Development
Arts, Athletics and Tourism

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