



**HB 218– Testimony
Kristin Mullins
Ohio Grocers Association
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Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on House Bill 218.

As President of the Ohio Grocers Association, I proudly represent food retail, wholesale and supply companies across the Buckeye state. My members include the smallest “mom and pop” stores, independent grocers as well as some convenience stores and of course the food wholesalers who supply these stores. Ohio’s independent community grocers contribute over \$13 billion dollars in sales, over 53,000 direct jobs and \$1.5 billion in direct wages, as well as over \$1.5 billion in total taxes.

OGA retail members sell a wide variety of consumable products, including many different types of alcohol and non-alcoholic products. The non-alcoholic drinks market is growing, leading to our members continually adapting and offering more of these products at our stores. HB218 is a commonsense solution that would afford customers with the same discount associated with buying bottles of wine in a case. Applying the existing 10% discount to dealcoholized bottles of wine, levels the playing field and allows customers to make their own personal choices in purchasing wine, with the same financial benefits in existence today.

To this end, the Ohio Grocers Association offers their full support of this legislation, and we urge favorable consideration from the committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

