

REINS Act Testimony

Chairman Hall, Ranking Member Humphrey, and fellow members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for your time in hearing House Bill 11.

HB11 is designed to accomplish three main objectives – Restore legislative control, increase transparency, and empower the people of Ohio.

Let's start with restoring legislative control. As we all know, our country and our state were built on the idea that we have three co-equal branches of government, but in 2025, there is a quasi-fourth branch of government -- an unelected bureaucracy, which is not elected by the people. It is our job as elected representatives to express the voice of the people we represent, and under the current system of regulatory oversight, only 10 of the 132 elected legislators get the opportunity to review proposed rules. Furthermore, unlike a bill, which takes the passage of both chambers to take effect, regulatory rules automatically take effect unless the members of JCARR propose the invalidation of a rule and both chambers then take a majority vote to invalidate the proposed rule. To recap all of that succinctly, it is easier for unelected regulators to pass a rule, which has the same force as a law, then it is for any of us elected representatives to pass a law.

HB11 will also increase transparency, and when we are discussing the government, more transparency is always a good thing. Because our government is meant to serve the people. Requiring major rules to be debated and approved by the full legislature provides citizens a greater opportunity to voice their concerns during the regulatory process, and ensuring that unelected rulemakers cannot impose burdensome regulations without legislative consent creates an incentive for agencies to propose well-designed, cost-effective rules.

Perhaps, most importantly of all, HB11 empowers the people of Ohio. When elected representatives – the people we vote for – have the final say on major regulations then the voices of more Ohioans are heard. This is the best way to hear the perspectives of all of our local communities. Because a regulation may affect the people of one region or industry disproportionately, and every Ohioan deserves to have their elected representative advocating for their position when a rule is being considered.

So imagine that, because of your support of this bill, we have the opportunity to restore legislative control, increase transparency, and empower the people we all represent.