



HOUSE BILL 11

Presented to
The House Government Oversight Committee

March 11, 2025

Emma Garelick, *Visiting Fellow*
FGA Action

Hello, Chair Hall and members of the Government Oversight Committee. My name is Emma Garelick and today I am testifying in support House Bill 11 on behalf of FGA Action.¹ We are a non-partisan, non-profit organization that seeks to improve lives by advocating for public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, individual liberty, and a limited, accountable government.

Ohio has been at the forefront of regulatory reform. It's one of a handful of states that has a regulatory budget in statute. This is a testament to the General Assembly's commitment to eliminating redundant and outdated rules, a problem that is often addressed solely through executive fiat in many states.

While Ohio has made significant headway towards reaching its goal to reduce regulatory restrictions by 30 percent, the state maintains its share of regulations that impose high costs on individuals and businesses across the state.²⁻³

Until now, reform efforts have primarily focused on cleaning up the regulatory code. While cutting red tape is key to improving the regulatory landscape, it's only one piece of the "reform" puzzle, as it targets existing regulations. House Bill 11 is a different piece of the puzzle, designed to proactively protect Ohioans from burdensome regulations by increasing legislative oversight on the front end of the rulemaking process.

At the federal level, Congress has been working on legislation that would require congressional approval for all major regulations before they go into effect.⁴ The basic idea is that the elected representatives in a legislative body have the power to make major policy decisions, not unelected regulators. And this idea has taken hold in states across the country. Wisconsin, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, and West Virginia all have policies in place to put power back in the hands of the people, and not with administrative agencies.⁵⁻⁶⁻⁷⁻⁸⁻⁹

Since Florida passed its policy in 2010, the number of new rules proposed by agencies has decreased each year, showing that strengthening legislative oversight can help slow the overall growth of government.¹⁰ House Bill 11 would enhance legislative oversight on high-dollar regulations, protecting gains that Ohio has made in cutting red tape and shrinking government.

Ohio already has a process in place that allows for committee-level review and provides the General Assembly the opportunity to overturn proposed rules. The policy embodied in this bill is different—it would *require* legislative input for high-dollar rules rather than *allow* for legislative input. It adds a new step to the rulemaking process, requiring the most burdensome regulations to be affirmatively approved by the General Assembly before they can move forward to become effective.

Just in the past few years, Wisconsin legislators have used their policy to prevent the implementation of burdensome rules, while Florida legislators have blocked proposals from bureaucrats who aren't under the policy direction of the governor.¹¹⁻¹²

Lawmakers can cement Ohio's position as a leader in regulatory reform by passing House Bill 11. It will help restore political accountability by ensuring that elected representatives weigh in on the most burdensome regulations before they are imposed on the public.

Thank you for your time.

¹ Ohio House Bill 11 (2025), <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/136/hb11>.

² Ohio Revised Code Section 121.951.

³ See Ohio rule number 3701-22-03 and Ohio rule number 3701-22-07.

⁴ Liesel Crocker, "Congress can put a stop to the current administration's reckless regulatory spending," Foundation for Government Accountability (2024), <https://thefga.org/research/congress-stop-administrations-reckless-regulatory-spending>.

⁵ Wisconsin Statutes § 227.139.

⁶ Florida statutes § 120.54.

⁷ Idaho House Bill 206 (2023), <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2023/legislation/H0206/>.

⁸ Kansas House Bill 2648 (2024), https://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2023_24/measures/hb2648/.

⁹ West Virginia Code § 29A-3-9.

¹⁰ Haley Holik, "How legislative and executive oversight helps Florida cut and control red tape," Foundation for Government Accountability (2023), <https://thefga.org/research/legislative-executive-oversight-helps-florida-cut-control-red-tape>.

¹¹ Ballotpedia, "REINS Act (Wisconsin)" (2023), [https://ballotpedia.org/REINS_Act_\(Wisconsin\)](https://ballotpedia.org/REINS_Act_(Wisconsin)).

¹² Haley Holik, "Why Florida is a national model for regulatory reform," Foundation for Government Accountability (2022), <https://thefga.org/paper/florida-is-a-national-model-for-regulatory-reform/>.