



**Representative Tex Fischer**  
59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 176, which would create the Universal Regulatory Sandbox Program.

As of 2024, 14 states had created some form of a regulatory sandbox, with Utah being the first state to expand the scope of their program beyond the fintech or insurance industries. If passed, this bill would allow businesses to obtain limited access to the markets in Ohio to temporarily test their products or services, without the burden of licensure or authorization that would typically be required.

This legislation also creates a regulatory relief office within the Common Sense Initiative office that is responsible for administering this program and acting as a liaison between private businesses and state agencies to identify laws or regulations that could be waived or suspended under the program. The regulatory relief office may also identify state laws and regulations that unnecessarily inhibit innovation, provide recommendations to the general assembly and the governor to potentially modify those policies, and analyze the risk to consumers if those recommendations are enacted.

This legislation, if passed, will not only create a better environment for Ohio businesses and entrepreneurs, but it could also turn our state into a magnet for innovation and outside investment. HB 176 will cut red tape, protect consumers, and help unleash our state's economic potential.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 176, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

**Committees:**

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