



## **HOUSE BILL 176 – (ESTABLISH A UNIVERSAL REGULATORY SANDBOX PROGRAM)**

### **WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY- OHIO HOUSE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 3, 2025**

Chairman Hall and members of the Ohio House Government Oversight Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 21,000 members of the National Federation of Independent Business in Ohio (NFIB) to convey our support for House Bill 176.

By way of background, NFIB is a small business trade association founded in 1943 dedicated to representing the interests of small and independent businesses across our state and nation. NFIB's mission is to promote the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. Our members have an average of 15 or fewer employees and come from all industry sectors and each of the 88 counties across Ohio.

HB 176 would establish a Universal Regulatory Sandbox Program within the Governor's Common Sense Initiative office (CSI) and build upon prior legislation that created a similar program in Ohio for financial products and services. Furthermore, this bill will create a regulatory relief division within CSI to oversee the development, implementation and oversight of the program.

Numerous states have adopted sandbox programs as a means to attract investment and talent, encouraging new and existing businesses to thrive and grow. We see every day how innovation is changing our society. This legislation will ensure Ohio is a place where innovators and entrepreneurs can safely experiment and test products and services within an initial five-year window, all while under stringent oversight ensuring necessary guardrails for consumer protection, health, and safety remain.

All big businesses at one point started out as small businesses, and the key to their success was developing new and innovative ways to create, market and sell products. Giving these entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore a product offering in a limited way will help them determine whether or not to invest considerable financial resources into putting it before the wider market. HB 176 will allow start-ups and small businesses to look at Ohio when determining whether to move operations from another state or remain in the state, thus promoting our state's business-friendly climate.

Businesses wishing to take advantage of the sandbox program must apply for approval by supplying necessary information to the regulatory relief division to prove the business has a legitimate offering to consumers and show how specific licenses or regulations are inhibiting their potential. Participating businesses will supply funding for this new division within CSI via application fees, thus ensuring no new government spending.

Finally, the bill directs the new regulatory relief division to create and maintain an online portal whereby citizens and business can offer suggestions on existing laws and regulations that they believe could be modified or eliminated. According to NFIB's 2024 Problems and Priorities Report, Ohio small business owners ranked "unreasonable government regulations" as the 9<sup>th</sup> most concerning issue impacting their business out of 75 issues.<sup>1</sup> Allowing businesses to submit suggestions for regulatory reform is one way to help ensure our laws and regulations are not overly burdensome for the small businesses at the heart of Ohio's communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 176 on behalf of Ohio's small businesses and we urge the committee's adoption of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron J. Garczyk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cameron" and last name "Garczyk" clearly legible.

Cameron J. Garczyk  
Ohio Assistant State Director  
614-221-4107

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nfib.com/small-business-problems-and-priorities/?tab=Select%20State%20Problems%20and%20Priorities>