Ohio House Public Insurance and Pensions Committee
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Brad Barger, Assistant Director
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Good morning, Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Teska, Ranking Member White, and members of the House Public Insurance and Pensions Committee. I am Brad Barger, Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 263.

ODJFS is responsible for developing and supervising the state's public assistance, workforce development, adult protective services, and child support programs. In addition, we run the state's unemployment insurance program.

Every day at ODJFS, we look for innovative ways to serve Ohioans more efficiently and effectively. When it comes to our workforce development and unemployment programs in particular, it is important to listen to Ohio employers to make it easier to do business in the state of Ohio.

For this reason, the Department is in support of Senate Bill 263. This is a common-sense reform that would allow professional employer organizations (PEOs) to file unemployment wage and contribution reports with ODJFS on behalf of their clients in one filing, rather than filing one by one for each client. For some, this would mean a difference of filing once rather than hundreds of times every quarter. PEOs provide important functions on behalf of many employers, especially small businesses.

This small change will have a big impact, as it will cut down burdensome red tape and save employers time and money. At the same time, it will have no cost to the department.

While this is a straightforward update, ODJFS does not have the authority to make the change in rule. We are appreciative that Senator Roegner has sponsored SB 263, which would allow this reform to move forward.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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