



**OHIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

October 14, 2025

Before the Ohio House Small Business Committee
Proponent Testimony House Bill 332

Chair Ghanbari, Vice Chair Dean, and Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Small Business Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on House bill 332 on behalf of the members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. My name is Tony Long, General Counsel and Director of Energy & Environmental Policy at the Ohio Chamber.

For at least the past decade Ohio has been actively attracting major economic investment tied to national security and defense industry. In fact, JobsOhio now has two of its ten industry focused pillars tied to these investments – Aerospace and Aviation and Military and Federal. HB 332 is a legislative vehicle to support this new ecosystem of suppliers and reshored investment.

The Treasurer of State has a tried and trusted program known as the Linked Deposit Program. Currently this model funds initiatives like the Ag-LINK program for farmers and the new Homebuyer Savings Account program, which helps residents save for a first home. HB 332 would add a small business defense program. This new linked deposit model would support the small businesses that act as suppliers and subcontractors for the large businesses in this growing part of Ohio's economy.

As the sponsors of the bill testified during the first hearing, the business must meet eligibility criteria, financial institutions must become approved public depositories to participate and offer this program, and specific terms and conditions are used to ensure the success of the program while providing access to lower cost capital needed by the business utilizing the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proponent testimony for HB 332. The Ohio Chamber looks forward to working with this committee and the Ohio House to move the legislation forward. I will now attempt to answer any questions you may have for me.