

Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee
1 Capitol Sq, Columbus, OH 43215

Ohio Right to Compute: A Bold Vision for Technology Leadership in the Intelligence Era

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 392 and Ohio's need to set a bold vision for technology leadership in the Intelligence Era.

My name is Logan Kolas. I am the Director of Technology Policy at the American Consumer Institute, an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—dedicated to promoting consumer welfare by improving public understanding of how policies and regulations affect consumers in a free market. I am also an Ohio native and currently live in Columbus.

House Bill 392¹ presents a bold vision for Ohio technological leadership. At its core, the bill plants a pro-freedom, pro-competitive, and pro-consumer flag in the ground that sends a clear and powerful message to the world: Ohio is open to innovation.

The rest United States has largely taken a different tack. In 2025, more than 440² state AI bills—some estimates exceed 1,000³—threaten to smother algorithmic commerce and free speech with complicated and burdensome red tape.

To be clear, technology has not always been kind to Ohio. Government regulations, job dislocations, automation, and certain labor market frictions made it difficult for certain parts of the state to adjust to changing economic realities. In many respects and for many reasons beyond its control, Ohio fell technologically behind its peers, whose advantages attracted workers and investors.

¹ Enact the Ohio Right to Compute Act, H.B. 392, 136th Ohio General Assembly (2025)

² Thurston Powers, "State AI Legislation Report," last modified August 8, 2025, <http://ai-legislation-2025.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/#introduction>.

³ Kevin Frazier and Adam Thierer, "1,000 AI Bills: Time for Congress to Get Serious About Preemption," Lawfare. last modified May 9, 2025, <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/1-000-ai-bills--time-for-congress-to-get-serious-about-preemption>.

Ohio has undertaken many positive reforms since then. Its tax code has grown more competitive, its deregulatory efforts have eased investment burdens, and its education reforms have attracted many of the world's best and brightest minds. But as the rest of the United States moves to regulate the frontier of technology innovation and artificial intelligence, a strong commitment to algorithmic liberty sends a signal that Ohio is a pro-freedom outlier in a world increasingly hostile to emerging technologies. The right to compute is a golden opportunity to boldly restore Ohio's pro-innovation reputation and to establish a leadership position in the world's most promising technology: artificial intelligence.

Make no mistake: House Bill 392 is no license to do harm.⁴ It carefully balances freedom and sensible legislative restraint. It defines a "compelling government interest" and protects Ohio's ability to regulate in circumstances of the "highest order," allowing government regulations to combat "deepfakes," punish deception and fraud, and to protect critical infrastructure. In an ideal world, Ohio would adopt Montana's "least restrictive means" standard for a compelling government interest. That tweak would ensure regulations stay minimally invasive, and that the pro-competitive effects of Right to Compute are maximized. Even without that reform, Right to Compute sets a bold vision for technological freedom and innovation in the intelligence era.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴ Taylor Barkley, "Protecting our right to compute — A new frontier for freedom," The Mercury. last modified march 18, 2025, https://themercury.com/commentary-protecting-our-right-to-compute-a-new-frontier-for-freedom/article_caa5093e-040c-11f0-b3d0-63929ef4e745.html.

