



Representative Tex Fischer
59th Ohio House District

Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Ohio House Technology and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on House Bill 665. If enacted, this legislation will provide important consumer protection by regulating the use of pricing algorithms.

This bill is common-sense, anti-trust legislation that prevents these systems from being used to enable non-competitive practices that harm everyday Ohioans as well as undermine our free-market system. To be clear, we are not doing anything to try to stifle innovation or restrict anyone's ability to do business in Ohio; we are simply setting up the necessary guardrails so that they may not be used in a predatory manner against consumers.

If a group of people meet in a smoke-filled room and conspire to fix prices, that's already illegal. What this bill does is ensure that consumers are protected, even if those people outsource that process to an algorithm with the same intent and same outcome.

This new era of technology and innovation brings with it new challenges. It is important that we update our laws to reflect these technological advancements to ensure consumers are protected today and in the future. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on HB 665 today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

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