

Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the committee,

My name is Nat Floyd. Along with my son, I own and operate BounceUp Ohio, a small, family-run inflatable business based in Lancaster. As we enter our eighth season, I am here today to express our strong support for House Bill 433.

This bill creates a fair and equitable fee structure across Ohio's amusement industry. Under the current system, small businesses like mine are essentially subsidizing the inspection costs of much larger, more complex attractions.

To put this into perspective:

- I have had 10 inflatable bounce houses inspected by a single inspector. The process took about half a day and cost me \$3,290.
- In contrast, a massive roller coaster like *The Beast* requires multiple inspectors over multiple days, yet the fee is only \$1,425.

House Bill 433 corrects this imbalance. The Division of Ride Safety formed a subcommittee that meticulously studied historical data to determine the average time required to inspect various ride categories. They recognized that a mechanical ride with hundreds of moving parts inherently requires more oversight than a bounce house. By establishing an average cost-per-hour for inspections, the subcommittee developed a new structure that is revenue-neutral for the state, while finally aligning fees with the actual complexity and duration of the work performed.

I anticipate that opponents of this bill—many of whom represent multi-million dollar operations—will argue that these changes are unfair. They may even offer a "token" fee reduction for inflatable operators. However, those gestures do not solve the root problem: the need for a system that is fair and equitable for every stakeholder.

I want to be clear: This is not a debate about safety. We all support rigorous inspections. In fact, this bill may actually *improve* public safety. High entry costs currently drive some operators "underground," leading to unlicensed and uninspected equipment being rented out on social media. A fairer fee structure encourages compliance.

Finally, it is important to note that this recommendation was presented with unanimous support from the Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety. This council includes a broad spectrum of our industry, including portable ride operators, the Ohio Fair Manager's Association, Cedar Fair and the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association

To recap, HB 433 ensures:

- Fairness: Owners pay fees that reflect the actual scale of the inspection.
- Sustainability: It protects small family businesses from disproportionate financial burdens.

- Integrity: It maintains our state's high safety standards while modernizing the administrative process.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation.