Americans for Prosperity – Ohio Proponent Testimony, House Bill 134, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
March 3, 2026

Good afternoon, Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 134. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I'm the Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity – Ohio.

Cottage food laws are present in most states, including Ohio, to allow entrepreneurs to sell homemade food to their communities. These laws allow entrepreneurs to enter the market without obtaining expensive commercial kitchen space and connect consumers with more affordable and less processed local foods. Unfortunately, many state-level obstacles restrict the type and quantity of food that may be sold. Existing Ohio law restricts opportunities for home-based entrepreneurs in a few ways, including:

- Only shelf-stable foods are allowed under Ohio's cottage food exemption.
- Selling perishable foods beyond baked goods requires costly commercial kitchen setups, erecting a cost barrier that is out of reach for food entrepreneurs starting their business.
- Third-party sales are allowed but are limited to restaurants, grocery stores, government-sponsored events, and farmers' markets or farm markets. Other avenues for sale, like retail stores and private fairs and events, are prohibited.

House Bill 134 expands upon Ohio's cottage food program while maintaining strict safety standards. The bill creates a microenterprise home kitchen operation registration to allow people to sell perishable homemade food beyond baked goods and sell their food freely through third parties. The registration alone provides a safeguard to consumers, but the bill goes further by also requiring home kitchen inspections. All food must also be clearly labeled with ingredients and safety information, including a disclaimer that the food was made in a home kitchen.

For the reasons outlined above, Americans for Prosperity supports House Bill 134. This legislation will increase the availability of locally produced food for consumers, and its more accessible registration fee, compared to the cost of upgrading to a commercial

kitchen, will allow smaller producers to enter the market.

Thank you to Representative Gross and Representative Humphrey for sponsoring this bill and for the committee for considering testimony today. I welcome any questions from the committee.