



OHIO DAIRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

*Supporting Ohio's dairy production industry; optimizing profitability and productivity;
addressing issues that affect dairy producers*

Ohio Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology
Proponent Testimony
Scott Higgins, CEO
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Senate Bill 100
April 1, 2025

Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chair Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 100, which will provide more opportunities of affordable healthcare for Ohio farmers.

My name is Scott Higgins, and I am the CEO of the Ohio Dairy Producers Association. I appreciate the work of Senator Susan Manchester, for creating this important farm family benefit.

By way of background, the ODPA is a grassroots legislative, research, and producer education organization, representing dairy farmers from across the state, regardless of farm size, breed or production strategy, marketing preference, or political affiliation.

Ohio is home to 253,000 dairy cows that live on 1,400 farms and produce 653 million gallons of milk annually. The total economic impact of dairy products produced and sold in Ohio is just over \$35 billion, which generates 136,300 jobs for Ohioans.

Ohio is ranked 12th in total milk production in the nation and 5th in the number of processing and receiving plants. Ohio is proud to be ranked #1 in Swiss cheese and #2 in lowfat cottage cheese production.

Senate Bill 100 will create a health plan to provide an insurance option for Ohioans who are self-employed. Many of our dairy farmers are self-employed and looking for affordable options to provide health coverage for their families.

Tennessee has already implemented a similar plan and now serves more than 200,000 members. There are many other states with similar models and we encourage Ohio to adopt this important option for our citizens.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Senate Bill 100 and encourage the passage of this legislation.