



Chairwoman Roegner, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Blackshear, and members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 262,

My name is Griffin Weasel and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs & Communications for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio (ABC). Representing nearly 800 builders and contractors in the commercial construction industry across Ohio's three chapters. Our members—ranging from small family-owned firms to regional leaders—build the schools, hospitals, and infrastructure that serve every Ohio community. We strongly support S.B. 262 because it levels the playing field in public construction contracting without adding costs to taxpayers.

At its core, the bill simply requires public authorities to visibly mark any changes they make to industry-standard contract forms—such as those published by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and ConsensusDocs, to name a few—by striking through old language, underlining new terms, or cross-referencing supplemental conditions. As the Legislative Service Commission analysis explains, if alterations are not indicated, they are void and the original standard language governs. This is not a radical departure from existing practice; it is a common-sense transparency rule that prevents “gotcha” clauses from slipping past bidders who lack in-house legal counsel. Smaller contractors, who often review bids after hours with limited resources, deserve to know exactly what they are signing.

Our members sometimes find that hidden modifications to standard forms are a persistent frustration on public projects. A 60-day notice period can quietly become 90 days, or a payment term can shift without any visual cue. Larger firms with dedicated legal teams may catch these changes, but the mom-and-pop electrical or masonry subcontractor bidding on a school renovation cannot always afford that luxury. S.B. 262 protects these smaller companies by ensuring every bidder competes on the same clear terms.

Finally, this reform costs nothing to implement and imposes no new bureaucracy—public authorities already prepare these contracts. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission will be simply directed to adopt straightforward rules extending the same visibility requirement when contractors supply the standard forms. ABC of Ohio believes this model is so effective it should eventually be applied beyond public construction to other sectors where standard forms are routinely altered.

We urge the committee to advance S.B. 262 swiftly and thank Senator Blessing for championing this no-cost improvement to Ohio's public bidding process. I am happy to answer any questions.