TIM DEGEETER
MAYOR
www.cityofparma-oh.gov
mayorsoffice@cityofparma-oh.gov

6611 Ridge Road
Parma, Ohio 44129
440-885-8001
Fax: 440-885-8012

Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter

Senate Bill 331- Proponent Testimony

Workforce Development Committee

Chairman Kyle Koehler
Vice Chair Michelle Reyonlds
Ranking Member Catherine D. Ingram

Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 331.

The City of Parma recently completed a significant capital investment at Ridgewood Municipal Golf Course, including a new event center and food service operation. It is our expectation that this facility will become a signature asset for the City of Parma. These facilities fall squarely within the categories of publicly owned golf courses and retail food establishments described in proposed ORC Section 102.10(A)(3) and (A)(8).

From the outset of staffing these facilities, the City encountered a concrete problem: we could not offer prospective employees the ability to earn gratuities. Private hospitality employers in the same labor market face no such restriction. The result is a structural disadvantage in recruiting and retaining qualified workers — one that has nothing to do with wages or working conditions, and everything to do with a gap in current law.

SB 331 closes that gap. By enacting ORC 102.10, the bill allows hard working public hospitality employees to accept gratuities while preserving important protections: tips cannot be credited against the minimum wage, base compensation cannot be reduced, and gratuities count as earnable salary. These are sensible guardrails that protect both the employee and the public interest.

The City of Parma respectfully urges the Committee to advance Senate Bill 331.