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Sponsor Testimony - Senate Bill 329
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee: November 15, 2016

Good morning Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Rezabek, Ranking Minority Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 329.

Senate Bill 329 establishes a procedure to reevaluate what the bureaucrats in state agencies are doing. In a world where we must balance our budget every two years, legislators must ensure that the state's limited resources are allocated in an efficient manner. Under this proposal, state agencies will be reviewed by a committee of the legislature to ensure that the agency is abiding by its legislative authority and not hindering economic growth and prosperity for Ohioans. This review is no different than what happens within successful companies. We cannot have state agencies behaving like Blockbuster when the rest of the world is moving to Netflix. If we know a certain bureaucracy is inefficient, ineffective, and costing our residents their livelihood, it is our duty to alter and change it.

Senate Bill 329 is a legislative tool against big government. If bureaucrats are impeding growth, overregulating our economy, or operating outside the bounds of the law, we should know about it, and we should be able to stop it. It's also an opportunity for the legislature to answer certain questions such as "Are we spending money in the right agencies, and are we getting a return on our investment?" Perhaps resources would be better spent in this agency rather than that agency.

Senate Bill 329 also requires the legislature to review occupational licenses required by the agency --which all too often serve as barriers to entry and prohibit people from entering new professions. If an agency licenses a profession, we must ensure that the license cannot be achieved through market forces, private or industry certification, or excludes individuals with low or moderate incomes.

Simply put, Senate Bill 329 is about removing the unnecessary entanglement of government and free enterprise, being responsive to its citizens, and enabling Ohioans to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 329. We would be happy to answer any questions.