

**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 123**  
**House Government Accountability and Government Oversight Committee**  
Dee Washington, Private Citizen  
January 17, 2018

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on House Bill 123, a bipartisan bill that brings much needed reform to payday lending in Ohio.

My name is Dee Washington and I am a former payday loan borrower. I live in Toledo, Ohio, and am a manager of drug prevention programs in our community. Years ago, I took out a payday advance loan for \$500 to get my car fixed. Being a single mom and working for a nonprofit, my money has always been tight. Having to pay back the full loan and interest, totaling \$575 two weeks later, I was naturally driven to return in order to borrow again so that I could pay my regular bills. Since my financial situation didn't magically change after that first month, I lived that cycle month after month.

While I was caught up in the first cycle of loans, I went to another lender to handle an unexpected expense with another payday loan and then I was really caught up in the storm. About 8 months into the first loan, I was now juggling two loans with total interest payments of \$300 a month with no end in sight. It took me two years to get out of that cycle and stay out. I slowly re-borrowed less each time to finally get out. During that time, my stress level went up because I never really had money for things my kids needed or wanted and I was distracted at work because I was always worrying about getting to the lender in time to ensure I didn't miss a payment. It became all-consuming. I lost so much money and time. Getting that first infusion of cash was a relief, and the people at the stores were very patient, but I felt so taken advantage of.

This is why I support HB123. It would give borrowers more time to breath on the repayments, more time to repay about \$120 a month, which would have been way more manageable than \$575 all at once.

House Bill 123 is desperately needed to bring relief to borrowers like me. Thank you for taking time to consider my story. I hope you can see that with these changes, Ohioans like me can gain stability, still get access to money when it is needed, and feel like the state of Ohio has our backs.

Sincerely,

Dee Washington