



Senator Kenny Yuko
25th District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4583

Good morning Chairman LaRose, Vice Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. Thank you for allowing me to present testimony on Senate Bill 38, the Ohio Workers' Rights Act. This bill takes a multi-pronged approach to empower workers whose paychecks, benefits, and quality of life have been eroding for decades. Senate Bill 38 contains provisions that would rectify these issues through an increase in the minimum wage, better over-time protection, and guidance on employee classification.

Senate Bill 38 would raise Ohio's minimum wage from \$8.15 an hour to \$10.15 an hour and would require the state minimum wage rates to be adjusted annually in accordance with the Minimum Wage Amendment to the Ohio Constitution. The bill would raise the salary threshold for executive, administrative, or professional employees to be eligible to receive overtime wages. The provisions would provide stability and support to middle-class Ohioans by increasing wages and protecting overtime pay.

The bill takes a balanced approach by increasing the minimum wage by \$2 to boost low-wage workers without harming our states' small-scale employers. It provides for additional changes in the minimum wage to be made based on the Consumer Price Index, in accordance with the Ohio Constitution. Provisions also provide stability and support to middle-class Ohioans by increasing the threshold for overtime pay, making sure employees get the benefits they should by clarifying their classifications, and by returning home-rule to municipalities for control over additional wage increases. These changes are estimated to bring thousands of people off of government assistance, protect the time of many middle-class families, and create a level playing field for businesses paying benefits and Workers' Compensation for their employees.

Chairman LaRose and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention and consideration of this important legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.