



Representative Scott Wiggam

1st House District

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. 297, the Firearm Industry Non-Discrimination Act.

The intent of this bill is to safeguard Ohio's tax payer dollars by ensuring that state and local governments are not contracting with companies that hold beliefs contrary to the values of Ohio's citizens and the Constitution. Companies with discriminatory practices or policies regarding the second amendment should not be able to contract with the state of Ohio while such policies are in place. This is not an unprecedented step. During the 131st G.A., House Bill 476 was signed into law, which prohibited the State from entering into contracts with companies that boycotted Israel.

It is important to know that there is nothing in H.B. 297 that forces companies to enter into contracts with the government and if they choose to not pursue Government contracts, they can continue these

discriminatory practices. However, government contracts must have stipulations that protect the interests of the tax payers. The bill also does not force companies to do business with others when it does not make financial sense. However, a company cannot refuse to do business with another if the sole reason of refusal is due to that company's support of the second amendment. In addition, I have a sub bill drafted that I will be sharing with the chairman for the next hearing that adds additional clarification on this point.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and will take any questions from the committee.