



Before the
HOUSE GOVERNMENT
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Proponent Written Testimony
House Bill 376

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Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 376, the Ohio Personal Privacy Act, a bill that would provide consumers with fundamental data privacy rights.

The Ohio Credit Union League is the state trade association representing the collective interests of Ohio's 238 federally and state-chartered credit unions and their more than three million members. With the "people helping people" philosophy at the heart of member-owned financial cooperatives, credit unions take tremendous steps to protect member data.

Ohio credit unions are already regulated under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA), a federal law that requires many of the same consumer data security and privacy protections found in House Bill 376. Financial institutions governed by the GLBA must outline their information-sharing practices to members and take steps to protect personal identifiable information. As a result, the League has been engaged with Lieutenant Governor Husted's office, CyberOhio, and the bill sponsors to ensure credit unions are not subjected to duplicative regulations by maintaining the GLBA exemption. Credit unions are trusted community partners for their members and protecting member data is not only the right thing to do, but also is a prudent business decision.

In the absence of a federal initiative to protect consumer data, many states have tried to address the issue. We believe the approach found in House Bill 376 is prudent, reasonable, and accomplishes the main objective without undue regulatory burdens. This legislation is long overdue, as the volume of data breaches has increased over the years. Additionally, financial institutions, like credit unions, continue to face reputational risk due to data and privacy breaches beyond their control. As the workforce continues to work remotely, cybercriminals have more opportunities to strike. The League supports House Bill 376 because the bill will better protect consumers, including credit union members, by equipping more businesses and organizations with a stronger baseline data security and privacy standard.

The League applauds Lieutenant Governor Husted and Representatives Carfagna and Hall for their leadership in providing a streamlined framework to protect Ohioan's data. Ohio credit unions look forward to the continued partnership and participation in interested party meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 376, and I am happy to provide additional information supporting the Committee's important work.