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Testimony in Support of the DSA Women-Owned Business Loan Fund

as contained in House Bill 110

Before the Ohio House Finance Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources

Chairman Darrell Kick

Anita Spencer, President and Owner of Safe Choice LLC

March 4, 2021

Chairman Kick, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the House Finance Sub-Committee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources,

My name is Anita Spencer, and I am the President and Owner, of Safe Choice LLC. We are a security company providing armed and unarmed security officers and police officers for public and private organization. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of the women-owned business loan fund as contained in House Bill 110, which would provide \$10 million over the biennium for small loans to women-owned businesses in Ohio.

Women businesses have been hit harder by the pandemic because women are the primary caregivers in the household. With the schools being closed, women can't find safe child care. Also, in home school is great when a woman is able to work from home, however, if not afforded that opportunity, it is difficult to care for and educate your children. Women businesses have not been identified as needing funding in previous state budgets, and they have not invested in women especially on the front end.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important program. I urge your support and favorable vote for the full \$10 million women-owned business loan fund as proposed in the executive budget.

Thank you, Governor DeWine and Director Mihalik for recognizing the need to provide support to women businesses.

Anita Spencer
President and Owner
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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 3, 2021

Name: Anita Spencer

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Saf Choice LLC

Position/Title: President and Owner

Address: 11811 Shaker Blvd. Suite 415

City: Cleveland State: Ohio Zip: 44120

Best Contact Telephone: (216)789-9778 Email: safechoice1@att.net

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 110

Specific Issue: Women Owned Business Loan Fund

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am asking for state consideration of funding to women owned businesses due to hardships brought about from the pandemic.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.