



Written Testimony

Senate Bill 9

Senate Government Reform & Oversight Committee

February 10, 2021

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Chair Roegner and members of the Ohio Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee, my name is Sante Ghetti and I am a member of the Greater Cleveland Partnership's advocacy team. The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) and its small business division the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) represents small, middle market, and large businesses in the state, with more than 12,000 members. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) on behalf of our members.

SB 9 would require state agencies to reduce regulatory restrictions incrementally. Regulations can take many forms and most employers generally recognize and understand the importance of enforcing state laws with succinct rules related to unique markets, industries, and structures. Our members' interest in SB 9, however, and the logic behind our support for this bill is clear: regulatory restrictions should continually be evaluated and focus on consistency and predictability – especially for small and middle-market businesses that may struggle to understand and comply with tedious, demanding mandates.

GCP has been a long-time advocate for regulatory reform and we also continue to be a strong supporter of Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI). In fact, our volunteer members have served on the CSI Small Business Advisory Council, a panel charged with helping state government achieve the right balance of regulations to make the Ohio business community ultra-competitive, while placing a priority on protecting Ohio's citizens from harm.

Requiring an agency to inspect rules for regulatory restrictions and consider whether the rule should be amended or rescinded is a commendable goal and we urge passage of the bill. Nimble, long-term planning for all parties will be essential to eliminate potentially surprising risks and minimize costs that could be passed on to the consumer, brought on by steep deadlines related to rules or regulations.

In closing, we applaud Senators McColley and Roegner for sponsoring this legislation. GCP appreciates the opportunity to provide our input and welcome the chance to harness our members' experience by working with state agencies and policymakers on the implementation of this regulatory reform initiative. Thank you to the Chair and the Committee for your time on this issue.