



Our mission

To act as the Ohio property and casualty insurance industry's voice on matters affecting or involving the industry.

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Proponent Testimony—SB 256 (Wilson)

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Chair Hackett, Vice Chair Romanchuk, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Insurance Committee, thank you for allowing me to come before this Committee to discuss the importance of SB 256. I am Michael Farley and I have the distinct honor to serve as the Vice President, Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Ohio Insurance Institute (“OII”). The OII is a trade and information association of more than 55 Ohio-based property and casualty insurance companies and related affiliate organizations. OII members write approximately 87% of auto insurance in Ohio and 81% of home insurance. OII members write about two-thirds of the commercial insurance in the state.

SB 256 is the result of years of discussion and deliberation by the National Council of Insurance Legislators (“NCOIL”) and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”). Legislators and regulators from all over the nation came together to modernize the regulatory schematic for travel insurance. This product has been in use for decades. As companies sought to adapt and expand coverage for travel insurance, it became clear that clear and consistent regulation was necessary.

This bill does not impose onerous, new regulatory standards on insurers and their sales force. This bill does, however, recognize that the traveling public expects additional coverages. This bill acknowledges that a consistent regulatory environment between the states will promote availability of this product.

Seventeen states have already adopted this model legislation. Our hope is that Ohio will be the eighteenth state to adopt consumer protections and the expansion of availability. After the last nearly two years, it is axiomatic that people are ready to travel. One way to ensure the financial security of the traveling public in the United States—and around the world—is to pass this legislation and allow for more availability by promoting consistency amongst the states.

Please note that travel insurance is already regulated in Ohio. This bill does not so much add regulation as it does modernize and streamline the regulation. States have dealt with this line of insurance differently. SB 256 provides the Ohio General Assembly a consumer-friendly way to maintain the level of appropriate regulation and promote consumer protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the OII’s support of SB 256. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.