



**Senate Bill 105 Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee**  
**May 12, 2021**  
**Stephanie Keinath, Vice President**  
**Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce**

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 105 today. My name is Stephanie Keinath and I am the Vice President of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. As the leading voice of business in the Dayton region, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2200 members across nine counties in southwest Ohio. Ten years ago, in a commitment to the growth & support of minority businesses in our community, the chamber created the Minority Business Partnership (MBP), a program which has provided our minority business enterprises (MBE's) with the resources and connections they need to scale their businesses and connect to large purchasing organizations in the region.

For these members, and for many other MBE's across the state of Ohio, Senate Bill 105 provides a much needed opportunity to streamline the certification process and makes it easier for MBE's to do business in Ohio. Currently, in order to do business across multiple political subdivisions, MBE's in Ohio must apply for and maintain multiple certifications- processes which take time and resources away from operating & growing the business. We've heard from so many of our members that Senate Bill 105 would cut through some of the red tape, make it easier to operate in Ohio and would improve minority participation in local business opportunities.

We commend the work of Senators Vernon Sykes and Kirk Schuring for their leadership on this important legislation and Secretary Frank LaRose for being a longtime advocate of increasing the visibility, use and reciprocity of state-issued MBE certifications. Ultimately, Senate Bill 105 makes it more efficient for businesses to operate in Ohio, and to that end, we strongly support the inclusion of language in this bill that would expand the certification reciprocity to women owned business enterprises (WBE's) and veteran owned business enterprises (VBE's).

This legislation just makes sense, and is a necessary step in making Ohio the best place to do business. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you as we examine how best to support minority-, women- and veteran-owned businesses and grow Ohio's economy.