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**OHIO COUNCIL OF
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**Ohio
Business
Roundtable**



5/18/2022

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
1 Capital Square
Senate Building, Room 137
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: HB 338 Even Exchange Amendment

Chairwoman Kunze,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would urge support for the proposed amendment to HB 338, which would enable Ohio to implement the “Even Exchange Program” as allowed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This program allows qualified military personnel with driving experience to be exempt from the knowledge test required to obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL). When used with the military skills test waiver, which Ohio already allows, the program enables a driver to exchange a military license for a CDL. The FMCSA establishes the minimum standards that each state must follow in administering the program. If accepted, this amendment would allow Ohio to join 28 other states that have either implemented or are seeking to implement the program.

You have likely heard from businesses in your district about the challenges associated with finding qualified drivers to transport their goods. According to the American Trucking Association, the estimated driver shortage is over 80,000 drivers, with the potential to grow to over 160,000 by the year 2028. ATA anticipates that over the next decade, the industry will have to recruit nearly 1 million new drivers to replace retiring drivers and fill the need for industry growth.¹ This is a

¹ ATA Truck Driver Shortage Update 2021- https://www.trucking.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ATA%20Driver%20Shortage%20Report%202021%20Executive%20Summary.FINAL_.pdf

problem sweeping the nation, and states are working to address it. Implementing the Even Exchange Program would allow Ohio to encourage its military personnel to stay in the state by removing barriers to obtaining a CDL for individuals with experience driving heavy duty vehicles.

Stakeholders have worked closely with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles in developing this language. The amendment both benefits Ohio's military personnel and addresses the critical need for CDL holders. For these reasons, we urge your support.

Sincerely,

Ohio Trucking Association

Ohio Beverage Association

Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Ohio Grocers Association

Ohio Concrete

Wholesale Beer & Wine Association of Ohio

Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

Ohio Contractors Association

Ohio Business Roundtable

Anheuser-Busch
