



The Ohio Society of Association Professionals

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The Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee
Honorable Senator Louis Blessing and Fellow Members
SB 297: Authorize tax incentive re: nonprofit management and operations
Proponent Testimony
Jarrod A. Clabaugh, CAE; President & CEO, Ohio Society of Association Professionals
March 15, 2022
Written-only Testimony

Dear Members of the Ohio Senate Ways & Means Committee,

On behalf of The Ohio Society of Association Executives (“OSAP”), I, Jarrod A. Clabaugh, CAE, OSAP president & CEO, am submitting written testimony in favor of SB 297, “To amend sections 5739.02, 5747.08, and 5747.98 and to enact sections 122.97 and 5747.77 of the Revised Code to authorize tax incentives relating to nonprofit management and operations,” as introduced by Sen. Timothy Schaffer, on this day, March 15, 2022.

This bill addresses issues that Ohio nonprofit organizations face in regard to attracting talented employees; providing additional professional development for existing employees; furthering the professional acumen of those who work in the nonprofit industry; and highlighting the economic value the nonprofit industry provides to every community in the state of Ohio and throughout the nation.

The nonprofit industry was significantly impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as many organizations were forced to drastically reduce professional development opportunities for their membership, their shareholders, their volunteer leadership and their staff.

The parameters outlined in SB 297 would not only attract more nonprofits to operate in the state of Ohio – thus boosting their economic and community impacts further – they would also provide for nonrefundable credits for those seeking specific certification in a host of nonprofit fields, including the Certified Association Executive (CAE) accreditation, the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation, the lobbying certificate program of government relations professionals and the Institute of Organization Management (IOM) program. These valuable designations are not only marks of excellence within their particular industries, but they also are designed to strengthen and develop the acumen of their possessor and elevate the organizations who attain them. However, they are expensive, and these costs are often placed upon the professional, which, given the current climate of reduced expenditures for professional nonprofit employees, often makes them unattainable to those seeking to improve their skills.

At a time when job training and re-skilling are becoming ever more necessary for employers and employees alike, OSAP believes this bill would expand Ohioans’ access to job training funds while strengthening the state’s nonprofit industry by attracting new business, expanding the skills of existing labor and furthering the professionalism of the industry’s current employees and organizations.

It is for the reasons outlined above that I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of OSAP and the state’s nonprofit/association community. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in favor of SB 297.

Respectfully yours,

Jarrod A. Clabaugh, CAE
President & CEO
The Ohio Society of Association Professionals