



November 27, 2018

The Honorable Jim Butler
Chairman, House Civil Justice Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Butler,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our support for House Bill 694, legislation that would reduce Ohio's statute of limitations for written contracts to three years. Today, someone wishing to sue a business in Ohio for violating the terms of a written contract has eight years from the alleged breach to do so. However, 39 other states have a shorter statute of limitations than does Ohio.

The later a claim is brought, the harder it is to defend. Therefore, the current long time period puts Ohio businesses at a great disadvantage if they are sued.

Lawsuits are decided more fairly and efficiently the more quickly they are tried. Over time, documents are lost and destroyed, individuals involved with drafting contracts leave their employment or are otherwise unavailable, making the defense of actions extremely difficult and costly. Reducing it will enable an employer to defend a lawsuit more effectively, since the involved personnel will have fresher memories and company records will be more easily accessible. It also means businesses will no longer be burdened with keeping records going back as far as eight years.

By bringing Ohio more in line with most other states, the Ohio Chamber believes HB 694 would help businesses save money on document retention in the future and make Ohio's business climate more competitive. For these reasons, the Ohio Chamber respectfully asks you and the members of the House Civil Justice Committee to favorably report HB 694. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Rep. George Lang