

Ichor Restaurant Group
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**HB 65 Proponent Testimony
Presented by Brian Bailey
Before the House State and Local Government Committee
Chair Marlene Anielski
March 7, 2017**

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 65. My name is Brian Bailey, and I am the owner and operator of Ichor Restaurant Group, which is located primarily in Northeast Ohio.

With fifteen total restaurant locations across multiple jurisdictions, Ichor Restaurant Group has been exposed to multiple health departments on a variety of projects. Our philosophy has always been to “partner” with the local inspectors to ensure our systems and procedures are in strict compliance with the Ohio Uniform Safety Code. Our very first restaurant was located across the street from a City Health Department and we were proud that those inspectors showed their trust and respect for our operation as regular customers. Over the last thirteen years, we have regularly reached out to the local health departments to inquire about best practices for support of a new menu item, a new method of cooking or potential change in our handling of food. We seek out the guidance and expertise of the certified inspectors to ensure the public is not put at risk of any food-borne illness. The positive relationship we have with our local offices enables this sense of partnership in maintaining high food handling standards.

With that said, there are local health department offices, albeit a small number, where food operators like myself have learned its best to keep a safe distance from the local inspectors. When an office builds a reputation of being highly-critical, overly-forceful, and just plain heavy-handed they are removing the collaborative nature successful food-service operators prefer. Restaurant openings are often delayed for trivial matters. This unnecessary red-tape costs so much time and money to the point where we and other restaurant operators have redirected our site selection outside of those difficult-to-work-with municipalities.

I support HB 65 as it provides clear direction for both the local inspectors and the small business owners in our state. It protects and maintains a collaboration mentality that is nothing but positive for public health safety. We do not need overregulation and burdensome field inspections that will drive a wedge between the operators and health inspectors. A true partnership is how I have enjoyed working with the majority of the local health departments and look forward to doing so for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Bailey".

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