

June 6th, 2018

Chairwoman Anielski,
Committee Members,

Thank you all for allowing to speak before you this morning. My name is Ibrahima Sow, a member of the Ohio African Immigrants Commission that your colleagues created almost a decade ago.

With over 11, 700 African Immigrants calling Ohio home according to the last census, this commission exists with the mission to increase access, build advocacy capacity, and promote self-sufficiency of Sub-Saharan Africans across Ohio.

(<https://www.census.gov/>)

H.B 624 sponsored by Representative Kent is a very important.

Within our statute in Ohio Revised Code 4112.31, we are charged with many doable tasks, and our ability to discharge is hindered by not having a designated place to store grants when received.

With HB 624, we are better equipped to discharge the tasks representatives of the People's House charged this commission with upon its creation.

As partners of this commission and leaders in the committees we represent across Ohio, I urge that you favorably consider this bill and put this commission, like its peers, to work.

Ibrahima Sow
Community Engagement Coordinator
Member, Ohio African Commission
Board Member, ETSS
Director, Project Aspire