

Kevin Bacon

3rd Ohio Senate District



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**Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 226
February 27, 2017
Senator Kevin Bacon
House Ways and Means Committee**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 226, the Ohio Sales Tax Holiday. Senate Bill 226, if passed, will create a permanent sales and use tax exemption on certain back-to-school items during the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August of each year. The intention of the sales tax holiday is to provide families with a tax break on back-to-school shopping while also stimulating economic activity for businesses. This bill passed the Ohio Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support.

The tax exemption will apply to items of clothing costing \$75 or less per item. It will also apply to school and instructional material costing \$20 or less per item. There is no limit to the number of items that a consumer may purchase tax free. The exemption does not include clothing items such as those used in a trade or business, accessories, or

sports or protective equipment. "School supplies" is defined as items commonly used by a student in a course of study and are explicitly listed in the bill, including items such as book bags, crayons, erasers, notebooks, pencils, and pens. "School instructional materials" means reference books, reference maps and globes, textbooks and workbooks.

Many of you may recall the last three sales tax holidays. These events were highly advertised in every part of the state and very popular with Ohio residents. My office received letters of support from students, businesses, and educators following these holidays. This bill gives our state's families the ability to plan ahead and save money on back-to-school purchases each year.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.