



Kris Jordan
State Senator

Senate Building, Rm. 39
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-8086

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Senate Bill 79 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
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Good morning Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Uecker, Ranking Minority Member Yuko, and members of the State Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 79.

Senate Bill 79 is about oversight, efficiency, and accountability. State agencies will be reviewed by a legislative committee to ensure that the agency has remained within its legislative authority, is operating efficiently, and is not hindering economic growth for Ohioans. If the state agency cannot show this, and the legislature does not reauthorize the agency, it will sunset.

Under this bill, it will be the duty of the state agency to demonstrate that it is serving the public interest rather than special interests, that the public could not be better served in a market based manner, and that their programs are not redundant. It will be up to the state agency to persuade legislators that its continuation is necessary to protect the health, safety, or welfare of its residents against present, recognizable, and significant harms.

Senate Bill 79 is a legislative tool against big government. If our state agencies are impeding economic growth, overregulating our economy, or operating outside the bounds of the legislative intent, we should know about it, and we should be able to stop it. Over the course of the twentieth century, our government went from a laissez faire based economic model to a government that regulates every affair. This cannot continue.

Additionally, Senate Bill 79 addresses the over licensure phenomena that is currently impacting the people of Ohio. These requirements damage the ability of men and women to enter a field and begin a new profession. State licensure is among the most onerous forms of regulation and generally serves more as a barrier to entry than as a way to protect the public; causing the most harm to individuals with low or moderate incomes. Licensure should be a last resort, not a go-to fix, so before an agency licenses a profession, we must first know that there isn't any other option.

It is the nature of government to grow. Even with the best intentions as a guide, the expansion of state influence has far reaching consequences and often, unforeseen negative results. In our system of checks and balances, it is imperative that the Legislature keep a steady watch on that growth, and work to keep it from slowing the progress of Ohioans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.