**Senate Bill 220 – Data Protection Act**

**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

**Proponent Testimony – Allen Perk**

**January 10, 2018**

Chairman Coley and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee – thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 220 – the Data Protection Act. My name is Allen Perk, and I have a small business named XLN SYSTEMS which I started in 1991. XLN plays in the Information Technology field with a focus on Cyber Security.

I am also a member of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) of Ohio, though I am not officially representing them here today. In Ohio, for example, NFIB has over 25,000 members like me and of that number 67% of those businesses have under 10 employees.

My business is right here in Columbus and I’m involved with helping small business owners assemble various protections from cyber threats. Why? Because I know that a Cyber incident can wipe out a business and the dreams of the families who poured their heart and soul into it.

Unlike the vast majority of small businesses, I am aware of the negative impact of what a cyber incident can result in. Keep in mind that these small businesses are led by one, maybe two people, and they are more concerned with finding their next project or for that matter, making their next payroll, that they simply do not have time to even think about technology threats or cyber criminals.

Given the complexity of I.T. in general, the mystery of cyber hacker’s methods and the precious little time afforded to these business owners, they can use the help, the tools, the peace of mind, provided by SB220. And they can do so at little cost with a few well documented steps provided by NIST 800-171. (National Institute of Standards and Technology)

I encourage you to listen to those of us who are on the front lines of business; to those of us who provide the majority of jobs here in Ohio; to those of us who can use a little help from our legislators rather than another hurdle. Therefore I encourage the passage of SB 220.