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**OHIO**  
**ASSOCIATION for**  
**JUSTICE**  
TRIAL LAWYERS HELPING PEOPLE

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Jason Porter, Chief Executive Officer  
John Van Doorn, Director of Government Affairs

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Bacon  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Ohio Senate

Dear Chair Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas and members,

The Ohio Association for Justice, the statewide bar association for trial attorneys, is pleased to express its strong support for HB 223, legislation that updates Ohio's structured settlement protection law.

Our member attorneys have a keen interest in preserving their clients' structured settlements as settlements are, in many cases, the most efficient means of protecting a legal recovery.

OAJ was pleased to participate in a series of in-depth discussions that resulted in this legislation with the National Structured Settlements Trade Association, the National Association of Settlement Purchasers and the Ohio Judicial Conference. The legislation before you draws on a national model bill produced by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators and blends it with Ohio's current statute, which was a national model when it was enacted seventeen years ago.

In our judgment, HB 223 strikes the right balance between preserving our client's assets while providing our client with a reasonable measure of flexibility to alter their settlement.

We thank you, the members of the Judiciary Committee, for your consideration of this legislation.

We urge you to pass HB 223 at your earliest convenience

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Van Doorn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Van Doorn