



Ohio Festivals & Events Association
Mike Spriggs, President
P.O. Box 25
Ashville, OH 43103
(740) 983-4193

Dec 3, 2020

Dear Senator Schaffer,

We are writing you today in support of House Bill 375 on behalf of the Ohio Festivals & Events Association and the organization's 74 member festivals and events.

While we strongly support H.B. 375 we are asking that it be amended and use your voice to remove Ohio's ban on all parades, festivals, fairs and celebrations in addition to the county / agricultural fairs.

The Pandemic has not been easy for our state. On March 12, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton and Governor DeWine issued orders for the closure of all festivals, fairs, celebrations and parades which remains in effect at this time.

When the state Advisory Panel was created to have a voice in the discussions of re-opening Ohio, Unfortunately, no one representing community festivals/celebrations, the ride companies, concessionaires and the like were involved. Ohio has several wonderful state organizations representing the industry (OFMA – Ohio Fair Managers Association, OFEA – Ohio Festivals & Events Association, and GOSA – Greater Ohio Showmen's Association) who all have similar interests, but not the same needs.

The Ohio Festival & Events Association's members, and the more than 1,200 community festivals and events across the state, provide valuable community entertainment and income with an estimated economic impact of well over \$300,000,000. Each event provides many additional jobs and volunteer opportunities in these communities as well. Many of these festivals and events serve as the sole fundraiser for many non-profits which in turn support important community initiatives such as under-served youth, hunger initiatives, educational scholarships and so much more.

On behalf of our festival members, our industry partners, and the residents of our state, we appreciate your time, your voice and your actions to assist in our plea.

The Ohio Festivals & Events Association, would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing from you and a positive movement to re-open all of Ohio's festivals and the support of our communities. Feel free to reach out if I can assist in any way – (740) 248-1313 or mspriggs.ofea@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Mike Spriggs
OFEA President