



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
COMMITTEE**

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 312**

Oct. 31, 2019

Chair Jordan, Vice Chair Hillyer, Ranking Member Crossman, and members of the House Financial Institutions Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 312, which would allow Ohioans looking to start, grow or expand their businesses to raise up to \$5 million each year through crowdfunding.

This legislation offers Ohio businesses an opportunity to utilize a means of securing financing by allowing consumers to invest financially in the success of that company. The bill creates a new means of incentivizing economic development across the state, which in turn creates more jobs, more infrastructure development and more tax revenues.

The bill was designed with the intent of keeping Ohio a competitive, business-friendly state. 80% of the business must house its assets in Ohio and 80% of the monies raised by the business must be spent here as well.

Municipalities house roughly 80% of the businesses located within the state, making Ohio's cities and villages the "economic engines" of the state. More often than not, economic development starts within an Ohio municipality. Giving business more financing opportunities means more development, jobs and revenues to help ensure our communities can continue delivering the quality services Ohioans deserve. We appreciate that Rep. Powell has recognized the need for this legislation and we urge your support of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League