

Representative Scott Wiggam, Chair House State and Local Government Committee 77 S. High Street Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Wiggam,

On behalf of business owners around the state, I would like to express support for House Bill 671. I have spent more than five years protecting small businesses from adverse rules and regulations but until now I have not seen such an important time to stand by our business owners. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our state has seen extreme knee-jerk reactions that have led to the closure of thousands of businesses.

Small business owners believe they are capable of providing their products and services in a safe and health conscious manner and do so regardless of regulations or public health orders. Businesses care enough about their customers that they do not wish to ignore public health orders, but they do wish to receive advance notice and a detailed explanation of why they must close. They also demand the opportunity to appeal the decision as quickly as possible.

If the restrictions and regulations on many industries do not get relaxed soon, many businesses will never recover. In fact, if you have not already noticed it throughout your district, you will begin to see many businesses not re-opening ever again. It is not a question of whether our state will experience another pandemic, it is a question of when. Thus, HB 671 will provide important foundations to protect businesses owners from future uncertainty.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 614-999-8773. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandon Ogden Principal, SBCO