**BEFORE THE INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE OF
THE OHIO SENATE
SENATOR BOB HACKETT, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY
OF
ROB BRUNDRETT
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES
THE OHIO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, my name is Rob Brundrett and I am director of public policy services at The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 282.

The OMA was created in 1910 to advocate for Ohio's manufacturers; today, it has nearly 1,300 members. Its mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing.

Senate Bill 282 proposes to require the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to create an online process whereby employers can report recipients of unemployment benefits who have potentially failed to meet the nonmonetary requirements of benefit eligibility. The bill requires that these complaints be reviewed in a timely fashion.

Under Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Law, an individual must satisfy both monetary and nonmonetary requirements in order to receive unemployment benefits. The monetary requirements relate to whether an individual worked in employment covered by the law for a qualifying duration and earned a minimum qualifying amount during a specified period of time. The nonmonetary requirements concern the claimant filing appropriate documentation, a qualifying reason the individual is unemployed, and claimant work search requirements.

Many manufacturers continue to have trouble securing qualified workers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill will allow employers to notify ODJFS of possible misuse or abuse of the system and of potential workers who have turned down qualifying employment they are mandated to accept under Ohio law. This bill is simple and yet a good tool for both employers and the state to avoid abuse of the system and return eligible workers to jobs.

I would be happy to answer any questions from committee members.