

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

# *Retail Merchants*

*The voice of retail since 1922*

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## PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 197

Before the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Lora Miller

Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

February 4, 2020

Good morning, Chairman Roegner, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. My name is Lora Miller, Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations for the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants. I am here to speak in support of House Bill 197. The Council appreciates the opportunity to address the Committee today.

The Council has over 7,000 members and has been serving the interests of Ohio's retail and wholesale industries since 1922. Unquestionably, the retail industry is vitally important to Ohio's economy and enhances the standard of living for all Ohioans. Last year, the retail industry accounted for approximately \$39.2 billion of Ohio's annual Gross Domestic Product and the retail industry supported 1.5 million jobs, which is roughly one in four of all Ohio jobs--more than any other industry.

As for H.B. 197, the Council believes it is an excellent bill and long overdue. We commend joint sponsors Powell and Merrin for their respective interest and effort in bringing the bill to fruition. H.B. 197 simplifies the tax code and eases the administrative burden associated with tax compliance. It reduces the need for taxpayers to reach out to tax advisors with questions and correspondingly, reduces the need for taxpayers and tax advisors to reach out to the Ohio Department of Taxation with questions. It is not a headline-grabbing bill but it is very much necessary. The Council supports H.B. 197 and encourages this Committee to be supportive as well.

Members of the Committee, this concludes my prepared remarks. The Council appreciates your time and attention to H.B. 197. I am happy to respond to your questions.

Council Affiliates

 Ohio Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



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