



Representative Al Cutrona
59th Ohio House District

Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 169.

I will not surprise you when I say that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented strain on our economy and our business community. Among those most affected are our bars, restaurants, and members of the lodging industry. This bill will allocate \$125,000,000 to the Development Services Agency to provide grants to bars, restaurants, and members of the lodging industry that have been impacted by the pandemic.

For bars and restaurants, these grants will be awarded in amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000. The amount awarded will be based on factors like loss of revenue and the number of employees that the bar or restaurant employs. Members of the lodging industry will be able to receive grant awards of the same amounts based on factors like demonstrated loss of revenue and occupancy rates.

This bill provides relief that is so desperately needed to our bar, restaurant, and lodging industries that are struggling in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. I would like to thank you all again for the opportunity to provide testimony and now would like to turn it over to my joint-sponsor to provide his testimony.

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