NFIB.

November 17, 2021

Representative Jay Edwards
Chair, Ohio House Economic & Workforce Development Committee
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Edwards:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 105, legislation requiring political subdivision recognition of state certification for minority business enterprises (MBEs), women-owned business enterprises (WBEs), and veteran-friendly business enterprises (VBEs). This bill will reduce the redundancy of certification for certain public projects and the associated compliance costs. NFIB Ohio members ranked state and local paperwork as a top-level concern in our quadrennial publication, *Problems & Priorities*.

Senate Bill 105 streamlines the process for businesses that have already been certified by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) as meeting the criteria for MBE, WBE, and/or VBE designations. Asking companies to file the same or similar paperwork is an unnecessary burden that only serves to reduce interest and uptake in seeking certifications. The goal of governments, at all levels, should be to make processes as easy as possible for their customers, i.e. individuals and businesses, and Senate Bill 105accomplishes that.

The fiscal note for Senate Bill 105 indicates no anticipated costs to local governments. We believe the bill may reduce local costs by not having another layer of paperwork that has to be evaluated and administered by an employee or employees. It is also important to note, Senate Bill 105 does not preclude local governments from having additional requirements for MBEs, WBEs, and/or VBEs. However, we hope these political subdivisions will see the merits in reducing burdens on businesses, not adding additional roadblocks to them obtaining these or any designations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 105.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ferruso
Ohio Legislative Director