



Ohio Small Business Council

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Michael Rulli
Chairman, Ohio Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee

RE: Senate Bill 134 Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Rulli:

On behalf of the Ohio Small Business Council (OSBC), I write to you in support of Senate Bill 134; legislation that would create the Business Fairness Act and is a reintroduction of HB 621 from the 133rd General Assembly.

The Ohio Small Business Council is one of nine standing committees of the Ohio Chamber and serves to promote and protect the establishment, growth, and vitality of small business in Ohio. Members of this council are business owners who employ less than 400 people, many of them having much less than that. We want to thank Senator George Lang for introducing the Business Fairness Act and supporting Ohio businesses.

SB 134 will allow any business – to remain open or reopen – that can demonstrate compliance with any safety precautions a government order or regulation requires of businesses permitted to continue operations. We believe this is an important bill, especially given the timing of it and the issues many small businesses are having as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

However, there are new provisions included in SB 134 that were not included in HB 621, and these new provisions reference the timeline by which orders, rules, or regulations may remain in place on impacted businesses. These provisions are still under review by OSBC, and we do not have a position on those. That being said, the spirit behind SB 134 and allowing businesses to remain open so long as they can comply with orders, rules, or regulations, is something that OSBC strongly supports.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support of SB 134 at kboehner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Boehner".

Kevin Boehner

Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy