



Representative Al Cutrona
58th Ohio House District
Representative Brett Hillyer
51st Ohio House District

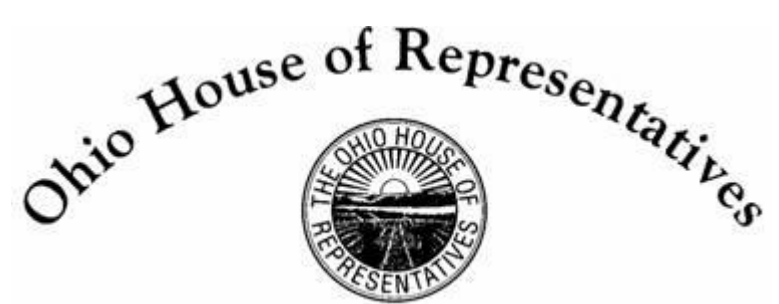
Chair Swearingen, Vice Chair Santucci, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 476 alongside my joint-sponsor, Representative Hillyer.

This legislation creates a universal regulatory sandbox program within the Ohio Department of Commerce which would allow people to obtain limited access to the markets in Ohio to test their products or services without obtaining any other licensure or authorization that would typically be required. With the removal of these barriers that, at times, inhibit the ability of businesses to grow their new products and services, we will help to put Ohio on the forefront of business innovation.

This legislation also creates a regulatory relief office within the department that is responsible for administering this program and acting as a liaison between private businesses and state agencies to identify laws or regulations that could be waived or suspended under the universal regulatory sandbox program. The regulatory relief office may identify state laws and regulations that unnecessarily inhibit innovation and provide recommendations to modify these laws to the governor and general assembly. It may also create a framework to analyze the risk to consumers of permanently or temporarily removing these laws.

The regulatory relief office may also propose reciprocity agreements between the State of Ohio and other states that use or are proposing to use similar universal regulatory sandbox programs. We believe that, as created in this legislation, the regulatory relief office will be effective in pinpointing laws that are safely able to be temporarily removed for the growth of businesses or unnecessary altogether. We have also created in this legislation the universal regulatory sandbox program advisory committee which consists of business leaders as well as representation from state agencies and the legislature.

The Director of Commerce will annually submit a report on the activities on the regulatory relief office to the general assembly that will include information about the program and its participants



Representative Al Cutrona
58th Ohio House District
Representative Brett Hillyer
51st Ohio House District

as well as suggested changes to laws or the program. This legislation, if passed, will not only create an environment in Ohio that fosters innovation rather than overregulating it, but also allow us to see through real examples what laws may be doing more harm than good to our economy.

The creation of the universal regulatory sandbox program and regulatory relief office will allow us to create the best possible economic environment for the State of Ohio. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 476. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.