

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

Retail Merchants
The voice of retail since 1922

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chairman
Ohio House Ways & Means Committee
Statehouse, 1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Merrin and members of your Committee:

I write today on behalf of the more than 7,000 members of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants to express our support for House Bill 609.

There is no doubt to anyone that the COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous economic hardship for businesses throughout Ohio. At the very beginning of the crisis, we reached out to the Governor and requested that he order an extension of state tax filing deadlines for all personal and business taxes and waive late payment penalties. The legislature then gave the authority for the tax commissioner to do just that but the only deadlines that were extended were Ohio individual income tax, school district income tax, pass-through entity income tax and municipal net profit tax. No late payment penalties were waived for other business taxes.

The relief that would be provided by passage of House Bill 609 would be welcomed by many business owners who have been struggling to keep their enterprises afloat. We are very appreciative of Representative West's leadership on the bill and encourage the committee to favorably refer it.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Lora Miller
Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations