



TO: MEMBERS OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- On behalf of the 21,000 members of the Ohio chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), you are respectfully urged to **VOTE YES on Amended House Bill 2 (Carfagna, Stewart)**
- House Bill 2 establishes the Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program. This important bill creates a public-private partnership to deliver broadband internet service to unserved and underserved areas of Ohio.
- Ohio employers are competing in a global environment. To do so, they need well-educated individuals to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow. Without adequate internet access, many children, tomorrow's workforce, will be left behind. This hurts their future employability, the success of our small businesses, the local economies, as well as Ohio's overall economic success as the pool of qualified and educated workers, is diminished simply by one's geographic location.
- Employers are providing increased flexibility for employees to work from home and the need for reliable broadband is greater. Entrepreneurs need certainty their staffs have dependable internet connections that move with the speed of business. We also believe Ohio can expect to see an increase in home-based businesses, especially for those that have been displaced as a result of the pandemic.
- House Bill 2 will incentivize the expansion of broadband to under and unserved parts of Ohio. Our members and their current and future employees will benefit from access to more reliable and faster internet as they strive to compete in the global marketplace.
- NFIB may consider the vote on House Bill 2 a **Key Small Business Vote** of the 134th General Assembly.

**On behalf of Ohio's small-business community, NFIB respectfully urges you to
VOTE YES on House Bill 2.**