



TO: MEMBERS OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- On behalf of the 22,000 members of the Ohio chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB/Ohio), you are respectfully urged to **VOTE YES on the anticipated House floor amended version of House Bill 215 (Cross, Wilkin).**
- House Bill 215 will permit any business, that was required to cease or limit operations as a result of a Department of Health order, to remain or reopen so long as they can demonstrate their ability to meet government safety protocols required of businesses that were allowed to stay open during a public health crisis.
- There were many small businesses that had to close because of government orders issued in March of 2020. These businesses were deemed “non-essential.” These businesses were not given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to open and operate safely. These predominantly small businesses were forced to close while other “essential” businesses (many that are simply larger enterprises in the same industry) could remain open selling similar or identical products and services to those shuttered businesses.
- HB 215 protects our members' ability to operate their businesses and do so safely. Our members have stepped up reorganizing their operations to meet government safety protocols: requiring social distancing, providing personal protective equipment, and limiting the number of customers at one time.
- Small businesses cannot afford another government-mandated shutdown. Nearly half of our members have experienced significant revenue loss year-over-year of between 20-50 percent. Every business owner believes their business is essential! They must be able to remain open, if they can safely operate under all of the established protocols, just like their often larger competitors.
- NFIB/Ohio may consider the vote on House Bill 215, with the addition of the aforementioned language, a **Key Small Business Vote** of the 134th General Assembly.

On behalf of Ohio’s small-business community, NFIB/Ohio respectfully urges you to VOTE YES on House Bill 215.