



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 House Bills 168 (Fraizer & Loychik) and 169 (Cutrona, Swearingen)**
- House Bill 168 provides additional funding for the Small Business Grant Relief Program. The need for additional financial assistance is great. A recent NFIB member survey indicated 70 percent of our members would take advantage of the program. House Bill 168 also includes the new business program that allows businesses opened after January 1, 2020, to apply for grants. These new enterprises could not avail themselves of other programs as most criteria required either demonstrated year-over-year revenue loss or being in operation prior to 2020. Finally, the indoor/outdoor entertainment venue grants will give these businesses that have struggled with capacity limitations opportunities to seek relief. All told for these programs, House Bill 168 provides \$180 million in fiscal year 2021.
- House Bill 169 provides grants to bars, restaurants, and lodging businesses on a sliding scale based upon revenue loss, number of employees, and occupancy rates. These industries have been particularly hard hit during the pandemic. House Bill 169 allots \$125 million in fiscal year 2021 to help these targeted industries rebound.
- Small businesses have been particularly hard hit during the COVID pandemic. 55 percent of Ohio NFIB members experienced a year-over-year revenue loss of 20 percent or greater. Utilizing a combination of CARES Act dollars as well as general revenue funds to help sustain these businesses, their employees, and their community involvement is welcome and appreciated.
- NFIB may consider the separate votes on House Bills 168 and 169 as **Key Small Business Votes** of the 134th General Assembly.

**On behalf of Ohio's small-business community, NFIB respectfully urges you to
VOTE YES on House Bills 168 and 169.**