



TO: MEMBERS OF THE OHIO SENATE

- 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 Senate Bills 108 (S. Huffman, Romanchuk) and 109 (Manning, Rulli)**
- Senate Bill 108 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. Senate Bill 108 allots \$125 million in fiscal year 2021 to help these targeted industries rebound.
- Senate Bill 109 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. Senate Bill 109 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 entertainment venue grants will give these businesses that have struggled with capacity limitations opportunities to seek relief. All told for these programs, Senate Bill 109 provides \$180 million in fiscal year 2021.
- 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 Senate Bills 108 and 109 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 Senate Bills 108 and 109.