



May 11, 2023

COLUMBUS – The below statement can be attributed to Ohio Chamber CEO Steve Stivers, NFIB Ohio State Director Chris Ferruso, John Barker, CEO of the Ohio Restaurant Association, and Joe Savarise, CEO of the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association.

“The Ohio Chamber, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the Ohio Restaurant Association, and the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association stand together in favor of the constitutional amendment on the ballot in August. Ohio’s Constitution is the bedrock of our system of government and should not be subject to changes based on fleeting public opinion. For far too long, the Ohio Constitution has been an easy target for those seeking to enact anti-business policies or further narrow special interest initiatives outside of the traditional legislative process. Currently, there is an effort to massively increase Ohio’s minimum wage and eliminate the tipped wage, which is the latest example. Ironically, Ohio already has a minimum wage that is indexed for inflation.

“As business organizations, we are singularly focused on business issues and growing Ohio’s economy. Our organizations have long held the position that Ohio should safeguard its Constitution by requiring broader public support for proposed amendments. We further agree with the amendment’s requirement that initiative petitions gather signatures from at least 5% of electors in each of Ohio’s 88 counties.

“If a constitutional issue is significant enough to impact all 11.8 million Ohioans, then it should have to garner and demonstrate broad statewide backing for consideration. Eliminating the cure period for signature gathering will ensure that we hold ballot measures to the same standards that we apply to candidates for public office. These combined reforms will yield more judicious constitutional measures, with more robust and widespread campaign efforts that elicit appropriately broad support from Ohioans.”

The below statement can be attributed ONLY to Ohio Chamber CEO Steve Stivers.

“The Ohio Chamber Board voted today to take no position on the November election’s reproductive rights issue. The Ohio Chamber is a business association and takes positions on business issues, not social issues. While we support protecting our constitution in August, this has everything to do with subjects like minimum wage, employment at-will and other business issues.”