



OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
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Statement in Support of the Governor's Signing of Senate Bill 108
May 17, 2021

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association extends its appreciation to the sponsors of S.B. 108 for the hard work that went into this important legislation, to the members of the General Assembly for their strong support, and to Governor DeWine for signing this measure today.

The effort to deliver financial support to Ohio's employers and businesses that remain most negatively impacted by COVID-19 will provide a bridge to recovery later this year and will help preserve jobs and critical economic infrastructure in our state.

Ohio's hotel & lodging businesses and the tens of thousands of professionals they employ have been devastated by the impacts of COVID-19. At the same time, they served as an important part of Ohio's pandemic response, housing medical professionals, first responders, logistics and transportation professionals, and others critical to fighting COVID-19. Hotels also responded to the call of Governor DeWine and others to help limit the spread by providing alternatives for housing homeless individuals to get them out of dangerous congregate settings.

Ohio's hotel and lodging industry has been negatively impacted to a truly historic level. At the height of pandemic closures, 70 percent of our industry's workforce was displaced. Only a portion of those jobs have returned. Senate Bill 108 is an investment in those employees' future.

The recent changes to the health orders, and the announcement last week of the elimination of the remaining provisions impacting our industry, provide a real opportunity for recovery. But because of the nature of our business, where events and stays are booked in many cases far in advance, that recovery will take time. S.B. 108, and other steps we must continue to take at the local, state and federal level, will allow our sector to not only contribute to the state's economic resurgence, but to help lead the way.

Hotels and lodging businesses will continue to place the highest importance on guest and employee health safety, under a system that now focuses on industry guidance and best practices. This includes steps that guests and groups will demand to protect against the virus; continued use of enhanced cleaning, disinfecting, and safety protocols; introduction of new technologies; and recognition of compliance efforts through our industry's Safe Stay® program.

The Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association and its members will continue efforts to inform members of the Ohio General Assembly of the economic impacts on the industry and will work to support the Governor's "Investing in Ohio Initiative" during the state's budget process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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