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CHAMBER SUPPORTS PROTECTING VENTURE CAPITAL

The Ohio Chamber this week voiced its support of a bill to protect Ohio's successful venture capital program. HB 348 raises the limits on the amount of tax credits that can be issued to offset venture capital fund losses. As a result, it will incentivize investors to continue assisting promising Ohio businesses and spur economic growth in the state.

The mission of the Ohio Venture Capital Program (OVCP) is to increase the amount of Ohio-based, private investment capital available in Ohio for early-stage companies and those developing new methods or technologies. Through its Ohio Capital Fund (OCF), the OVCP invests in for-profit venture capital funds, primarily based in Ohio. Those private venture capital funds, in turn, commit at least 50 percent of their OCF monies to Ohio-based companies and entrepreneurs that show growth potential and meet rigorous standards for investment.

Ohio Chamber assistant vice president of tax & economic policy, Dan Navin, gave proponent testimony this week on HB 348. He told the House Economic Development Committee about different facets of the OVCP's success, such as the \$111 million committed to venture capital funds, with most of the funds having an Ohio presence. He also noted the program has \$48 million in funded commitments and those investments have leveraged an additional \$91 million in investments in 37 Ohio-based companies. Finally, he said those 37 companies employ 1,462 Ohioans with an estimated payroll of \$95 million.

HB 348 will enhance the protection afforded Ohio venture capital fund investors and thereby maintain the flow of private investment capital to seed and early-stage Ohio companies. This is an important part of the state's economic recovery.

To view the Chamber's testimony, [click here](#).

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