

**NIRAJ J. ANTANI**  
42<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Vice Chair- Committee on Higher  
Education & Workforce Development

Committee on Health

Committee on Energy &  
Natural Resources

Committee on Community &  
Family Advancement

Committee on Aging & Long Term Care



*Ohio General Assembly*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Columbus*

**VERN RIFFE CENTER**  
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 11<sup>TH</sup>  
FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-6111

—  
T: (614) 466-6504

—  
F: (614) 719-6966

—  
REP42@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

**Sponsor Testimony House Bill 284**  
**Insurance Committee**  
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Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Henne, Ranking Member Bocchieri, and Members of the Insurance Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 284, which would study reducing the cost of insuring young commercial drivers.

Jobs that require a commercial driver's license, or CDL, are the most open job in Ohio. In the Dayton region, there are 1,800 open jobs that require a CDL. As I spoke to local trucking companies in Dayton, one owner mentioned to me that younger drivers, aged 18-20, should be able to drive short hauls intrastate; and, that could prepare them to drive interstate under federal law when turning 21. After looking into this, I quickly realized that the ability for younger drivers to get insured is what prevents this from occurring. A large trucking company may only be able to get a few drivers aged 21-24 insured, let alone 18-20. However, it becomes very difficult to find a 25 year old willing to switch careers and enroll in CDL courses.

Ohio has 7,000 to 8,000 great paying jobs in the trucking industry just waiting to be filled. I have spent over a year researching the situation with various insurance and trucking industry stakeholders and have found that no state in the country has found a good resolution to this situation. The result is that thousands of young people are missing out on great paying jobs that do not require a college degree.

ODJFS has reported that the need for drivers is only going to grow in the future. Part of the problem that the average age of commercial truck drivers is much higher than employees in other industries. Enabling Ohio's young people to enter the industry under the age of 25 will help replace those aging drivers who are retiring, and help bring a solution to this significant problem.

House Bill 284 would create a short-term study committee comprised of interested legislators and industry experts who will report back to the General Assembly on their recommendations for statutory changes. Through this formal process, we can bring all parties to the table to find an answer to this problem. It is our intention to complete this effort rapidly enough to introduce and pass final legislation yet this session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 284. I would be happy to take any questions.