



REPRESENTATIVE RICK PERALES
HOUSE DISTRICT 73

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. ROMANCHUK
HOUSE DISTRICT 1

HB 551 | Regards Minors in Hazardous or Dangerous Occupations
House Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee
Sponsor Testimony
May 22, 2018

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 551. On the manufacturing side, I can confirm the need for this legislation. Here is the data:

- A total of 10,502 job openings were posted online on the OhioMeansJobs website from March 14 to April 13 in the manufacturing industry sector.
- Currently, 16-17 year olds have very low participation in both the construction and manufacturing fields.

The good news is, if HB 551 passes, we could possibly see a greater participation from this age group, which in turn could lead to employment in these in-demand sectors over time. One of the main intents of House Bill 551 is to encourage career exploration in these fields during the summer when students are out of school and in need of employment. Summer work opportunities provide an ideal opportunity for 16 and 17 year olds to gain experience and knowledge about the industry. These opportunities are beneficial because they can peak students' interest in manufacturing and construction, which can result in more students entering into these fields upon graduation.

By providing meaningful employment and career exploration to young adults interested in manufacturing and construction, a new generation of workers can ultimately receive training for Ohio's in-demand workforce. Ohio's youth participating in these programs will possess the occupational knowledge and training necessary to begin professional careers in the construction or manufacturing industry right out of high school. It is time to focus on raising awareness about careers in the skilled trades, such as manufacturing and construction, and to open doors to more viable and in-demand career options for our young people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 551. We will be glad to answer any questions at this time.