



April 25, 2017

Senate Bill 34

Proponent Testimony – David Drake

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 34. This legislation would require schools to start classes after Labor Day, unless they go through a process specified in the legislation.

My name is David Drake and I am a current board member of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association (GOSA). GOSA is a non-profit organization made up of 450+ members in the outdoor amusement industry. Members service all the county fairs in the state of Ohio as well as other festivals throughout the state. GOSA members are family owned & operated businesses and earn their living providing enjoyment to others.

The events our members' businesses provide include rides, games and food concessions at county fairs and festivals in Ohio. We provide a positive economic impact to Ohio. Many of the people we employ throughout the season are high school students. These students want to work to earn the money but in many cases have to cut their employment short to return to school. The GOSA believes these summer jobs are vital, not just to the business owners, but to the families the income helps support. Summer jobs are also a positive form of education and learning. These jobs aid in teaching everyday life skills to students.

Kids should have the time frame to be able to get a summer job. By having a summer job these children are beginning to learn the basic skills of going to work and what is expected of them. Then after school or college they can be one or more steps up the ladder already. However, over the years we have seen schools starting earlier and earlier, forcing our seasonal employments to be cut short. We in turn lose valuable, qualified employees and scramble to find help to finish our county fair season.

The GOSA also believes the legislation would encourage more quality time with families. Most of the events our members participate in are before Labor Day. We think these events provide an opportunity for traditional family fun. We don't think families should miss these community events because of school obligations.

I certainly thank the members of the committee for considering our perspective.

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