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House Commerce and Labor Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 14— Sponsor Testimony
Tuesday April 5, 2022

Chairman Stein, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 14.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 would urge Congress to expand hours that 14 and 15 year olds can work until 9 PM year round as long as they have parental consent. Doing so will help employers across Ohio and our country with their staffing problems and encourage kids to further develop their good working skills.

This resolution also works in conjunction with Senator Maharath and my Senate Bill 251, which would make this same change in Ohio, and ensure there are no conflicts between Ohio's code and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Let's be clear . . . this resolution and Senate Bill 251 reinforce the guardrails protecting children already in code. Ohio law says children may not work between 9:00 pm and 7:00 am, and no more than 3 hours a day during school session. Additionally, a child cannot work more than 18 hours per week while school is in session. These guardrails do not change under Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 or Senate Bill 251.

Currently, federal and state law prohibit 14-15 year olds to be employed past 9 PM during the summer, and past 7 PM during the school year. In order to help our small businesses that struggle to find adequate staffing during the pandemic, a member of the Pickerington Chamber of Commerce proposed that we permit these minors to work until 9 PM year round as long as their parents' consent.

This resolution states clearly that if a minor wishes to work until 9 PM during the school year, the minor must have the approval to do so from their parent or legal guardian.

Additionally, I have already spoken on how this change would impact the State of Ohio through Senate Bill 251, which also has the support of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio NFIB, and the Ohio Restaurant Association.

Thank you once again Chairman Stein and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.