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Thomas Hall  
State Representative

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Rep. Hall HB 643 Sponsor Testimony

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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 643, legislation to require excused absence from school for 4-H activities.

4-H is an invaluable resource and opportunity for growth for countless students, not only in Butler County, but all across Ohio. It is an organization that focuses on the development of our state's young minds through hands on learning that can lead to lifelong skills. It is the constant programming of 4-H, whether through events, clubs, or conferences that these skills are able to be passed on to the next generation of 4-H students

Currently in Ohio, official 4-H events are not considered sufficient for an excused absence and the decision on whether to allow the excuse absence is at the discretion of the school. The goal of our education system is to give our students lifelong skills that allow them to achieve success in the future. 4-H strives to achieve the exact same goal.

Due to this, myself, and Representative Creech believe that students should be granted excused absences for participation in scheduled 4-H activities and programs

Under HB 643 we would be able to provide all students with the opportunity to expand their horizons and receive the full benefit that 4-H has to offer without the possibility of conflict with their education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 643 and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.