

Tina Maharath

State Senator

3rd Senate District



Tim Schaffer

State Senator

20th Senate District

Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Senate Bill 251 — Sponsor Testimony

Wednesday October 20, 2021

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 251.

Senate Bill 251 will permit 14 and 15 year olds to work until 9 PM year round in Ohio with their parents' consent. Doing so will help our local employers with staffing problems, and, to keep their doors open.

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 local chamber of commerce proposed that we permit these minors to work until 9 PM year round as long as their parents' consent.

This legislation 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 the person's parent or legal guardian.

According to the United States Department of Labor, thirteen states currently allow youth under the age of 16 to work until at least 9 p.m. year round for most non-farm employment opportunities. Michigan, for example, prohibits employment from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Additionally, this legislation has the support of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio NFIB, and the Ohio Restaurant Association.

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