



Ohio Restaurant Association Testimony in Support of S.B. 251

December 15, 2021

Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee:

On behalf of Ohio's 23,000 restaurant and foodservice locations and Ohio's 585,000 restaurant and foodservice employees, the Ohio Restaurant Association appreciates the opportunity to support S.B. 251 and thanks Senator Schaffer and Senator Maharath for sponsoring this legislation.

The skills that young people learn by being a part of the workforce are invaluable and serve them well for the rest of their life. So much of a young person's time in today's world is spent in front of a screen. Employment opportunities, especially in sectors like foodservice and retail, where young people learn the incredibly important skill of customer service and interaction with the public will benefit them in their schooling and in their future career.

Unfortunately, the current 7:00 pm limit on 14 and 15 year olds working keeps them from many of these opportunities. While a limit is appropriate for younger workers, we believe that 9:00 pm is reasonable, and will open up more opportunities for this important personal growth opportunity for more Ohio teenagers. We understand not all families will want to take advantage of this opportunity, and support and value the fact that this legislation clearly states that parents' consent is necessary for those kids who want to take advantage of this opportunity. This is a choice that appropriately belongs to the family, which this legislation makes clear.

Ohio's restaurants value all who work in foodservice in our state, and look forward to this legislation giving additional opportunity to more younger Ohioans to learn, grow and earn.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support this timely legislation and for all you are doing to help Ohio and Ohio's businesses on this important road to a full recovery and robust opportunities for all Ohioans.

Tod Bowen
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Ohio Restaurant Association