

We would like to lend our support for Senate Bill 251 to allow Ohio's young people, aged 14-15, the choice to have more employment opportunities available to them. We think this bi-partisan bill will give young people the chance to work a more flexible schedule which will benefit not only a family's ever-changing work/school/extracurricular agenda, but also give local businesses a greater resource in young people who want to contribute to the Ohio's economy.

Young people under the age of 16 are unable to drive themselves to work. They depend many times on family or friends to drive them to work. If their hours of work availability are limited to no later than 7pm, it's hardly worth the family's time to take time off from their own job to get the young person to work and then pick them up 2-3 hours later.

This bill could also facilitate the learning experience young people get when contributing to the success of a work environment. Experiences in the work environment are some of the most valuable and rewarding in a young person's life.

Senate Bill 251 would also benefit the service industry in that it enables businesses to utilize a work force that could be available until 9pm while school is in session. Restaurants, hotels, department stores, and many other local businesses could employ more willing, hard-working young Ohioans.

During the worst parts of this current pandemic, it was young Ohioans who helped some businesses survive. Young Ohioans' desire to work continues to fuel our state's economy. We should nurture that spirit. These young people are Ohio's future leaders, business owners, and public servants. Senate Bill 251 strengthens the foundation of Ohio's work ethic. It acknowledges and facilitates the contribution of young people to Ohio's economy and future.

Sincerely,
Mike and Luann Todd
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