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Standing Committees
Transportation, Ranking Member;
Behavioral Health;
Finance;
Government Oversight;
Public Health Policy;
Economic & Workforce Development

Michele Grim
State Representative

Before the House Commerce and Labor Committee

House Bill 334 – The STAND UP Act

Sponsor testimony provided by Representative Michele Grim

November 13th, 2024

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally and all members of the Commerce and Labor committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony regarding the STAND UP Act.

Under current law, striking workers are barred from applying for unemployment insurance benefits. House Bill 334, the STAND UP Act would ensure that workers exercising their legal right to collectively bargain are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits in the state of Ohio.

Ohioans shouldn't have to choose between seeking better working conditions and keeping a roof over their head. Strikes arise from a deep-seated need for change, often after other avenues of dialogue have failed. The right to strike is a powerful and necessary tool for workers to advocate for fair treatment.

And when working people make the hard choice to strike, they should be able to access the unemployment insurance system **that they have contributed to with their paychecks.**

Unions are crucial to building a good jobs economy. Right now, across the country and across different industries, union members are standing up to corporate greed and securing important advancements in pay, benefits, and working conditions. When unions fight for their members, all workers in the same industry reap the benefits of expanded benefits, pay, and safe working conditions.

New York and New Jersey already allow striking workers to collect unemployment and New York's law was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally and all members of the Commerce and Labor committee, thank you so much again for the opportunity to share testimony. I would be happy to take any questions the committee may have.