

Columbus Office  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street  
14th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

(614) 644-6017  
[Rep43@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep43@ohiohouse.gov)

[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)



43rd House District  
Toledo (p) | Ottawa Hills

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

**Michele Grim**  
State Representative

**Before the House State and Local Government Committee**

**House Bill 521 – Minors in Entertainment Industry**

**Sponsor testimony provided by Representative Michele Grim**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, and all members of the Commerce and Labor committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony regarding House Bill 521. I would also like to thank my joint-sponsor Representative Lauren McNally.

Ohio is currently 1 out of the only 17 states that has nothing in law regarding working conditions for children acting in the entertainment industry. There are no federal laws that oversee this type of labor either. This means that a child actor in Ohio has virtually no oversight over how many hours they work a day, how much education they receive while working, when they can take a break or eat, or where their paychecks go.

While this may not seem like an issue relevant to our state's children, Ohio has often been used for filming scenes for major films such as The Avengers, Captain America: The Winter Soldier, and The Fate of the Furious, among hundreds of others. Even if they were used as just background actors, any child who acted in scenes that were filmed in Ohio - had no labor rights when any of these hundreds of films were completed.

Governor DeWine has continued to emphasize that as elected officials one of our top priorities should be our youngest Ohioans, and ensuring they have the best possible opportunities. This includes ensuring they have opportunity to truly thrive in any work place they may pursue.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Manchester, 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.