



Representative Rodney Creech, State Representative to Ohio's 40th District

135th General Assembly H.B. 135

Sponsor Testimony

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 135 today.

Today we are discussing a very important bill that will require excused absences from school for 4-H and FFA activities. As the state that established the 4-H, Ohio is known as the forefront in paving the way for other states in terms of adoptions and legislation impacting the involvement for the youth in countless extracurricular activities, such as the 4-H and the FFA. Each year, many Ohio students take part in 4-H and FFA activities, and for some students it can bring scholarships and tuition money to help them pursue further education. Yet some competitions and events happen to fall within the school calendar, requiring students to miss time from either school or their 4-H or FFA events. Even though enriching the lives of our students outside the classroom is just as important as the curriculum that we prioritize inside the classroom.

While this bill also acknowledges state testing it prohibits excused absences during that time. H.B. 135 is simple, it's a common-sense bill, to help students participate in the activities that will enrich their lives while helping develop their skills during and after their time in school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 135 today. I would be delighted to answer any questions you might have.