

## H. B. No. 135 Require School Districts to Grant Excused Absence for 4-H and FFA

Tatumn Poff

Hello Everyone. My name is Tatumn Poff. I am a 16-year-old now Junior at Chardon High School as well as taking online classes at Lakeland Community College. I have been involved in the 4-H program as a junior for 8 years, but have been involved ever since I could walk. Although I have learned lots of valuable lessons in a classroom setting, I have learned more life-impacting skills and social experiences outside of the classroom. One of my biggest accomplishments over the past 8 years was my outcome at the 2019 Shorthorn Junior Nationals held in Lebanon Tennessee. That was my first Junior Nationals and one of my most memorable. At the show some of my accomplishments were 2nd in the Judging Contest, 1st in Team Salesmanship, 2nd in Showmanship, Reserve Champion Shorthorn Plus market steer, and Overall Prospector II Exhibitor. My favorite and most rewarding was winning the Team Sales contest with my twin sister. In just those 8 minutes of presentations and the hours working and leading up to it, not only did we learn how to work together as a team, but to also become better marketers. Another thing that I am very thankful that the 4-H gave me is the friendships. Its crazy to think that 95% of my friends would not be in my life if it wasn't for this program. They are the most trustworthy people in my life and while we are fierce competitors, we are each others biggest fans. Lastly, the most memorable experience I have had within the 4-H program was participating in the Ohio Youth Capital Challenge. (Also known as OYCC) I participated in this program in conjunction with the Ohio Farm Bureau in May of 2022. In this program, my two teammates and our

mentor were put to the task of creating a policy. Funny enough it is the one I am advocating for today. Being given this opportunity that is not offered inside of school not only led me to meet and make new friends, but it also helps to build my passion that I would like to turn into a career one day. That is becoming a lawyer.