



Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson and all members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 135 on behalf of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association. The GOSA is a non-profit organization made up of 450+ members in the outdoor amusement industry. Our members service all the county fairs in the state of Ohio as well as other festivals and community events. GOSA members are family owned & operated businesses and earn their living providing enjoyment to others.

HB 135 will provide students who participate in 4-H and FFA activities excused absences. We are writing today to echo the support the committee received from the Ohio Fair Managers Association. The OFMA included the 2023 fair schedule as an addendum to their testimony. You'll note the large number of fairs that are scheduled for August, September, and October. It is important that those youth 4-H and FFA participants are granted the same full experience of "fair week" as those from counties whose fair is in July. These youth deserve to have time and opportunity to fully experience showing their projects they worked so hard to complete. They should have this experience without any hardships to their regular K-12 education.

Many of our members' and their children have gone through 4-H and FFA and learned value tools that contributed to their success. These activities are education, and they should be supported by their local school districts to participate, and those absences should be excused.

Thank you for your consideration and we hope for favorable passage of HB 135.