

**House Primary and Secondary Education Committee**  
**HB 135 Proponent Testimony**  
**Masen Jolliff**  
**May 23, 2023**

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and other members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. My name is Masen Jolliff and I am an 8th grader at Ridgemont Local School District. My Supervised Agricultural Experience projects include: raising cattle, farming crops, operating a metal fabrication business, and conducting science fair research projects. This bill would directly impact me and my desire to expand my cattle farm, grow my fabrication business, and expand my research projects over the next four years. Last year as a 7th grader, I was interested in learning more about engineering, and I decided to conduct research that compared the National Tractor Test Lab trials with claims made by John Deere about the horsepower production of tractors. I wanted to do my research in a real lab with a dynamometer, so I reached out to a professor at The Ohio State University at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, Ohio. The only time available to do my test was during the school day, so I missed a day of school to travel to do my research in their engineering lab. This was a great opportunity and lead me to win the state with my science fair, as well as place third place in the USA. I qualified for the Eastern Region Science Fair and traveled to Springfield, Massachusetts to place third overall in that experience. All of these travel opportunities were great for me to learn more, but they took me out of school. In addition to this, my metal fabrication business was really beginning to take off last year. I design a unique cattle stall chute and sell it to people that show cattle across the country. I have traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to market and deliver my chutes and had the opportunity to talk with people that purchase my cattle chutes to get feedback on design changes and improvements. When I am at shows using my cattle chutes I am always talking to cattle farmers to learn more about the industry and improve my cattle chutes and cattle genetics. This past year my marketing at national events has really paid off, I have grossed over \$10,000 in sales from my fabrication business. Face-to-face conversations with customers increase sales and build relationships. I have customers as far west as Oklahoma, and I am continually trying to keep up with production demands. This bill would add support to kids like me that want to network with mentors and gain experiences outside of school during the school day. Last year, I received a truancy warning letter from all of my FFA events, even though I had a 3.85 GPA. This bill would

support students' Supervised Agricultural Experiences and help me learn skills to prepare myself to go to college in agricultural engineering and keep my farm and fabrication business growing as I attend college. I encourage you to vote for this bill to support future agriculturalists, like myself. Thank you so much, I'd be happy to answer any questions.