

I support wholeheartedly passage of SB 111.

The main thrust of the bill is to have OSU Extension and CSU Extension teach our urban youth about food production and other aspects of agriculture using a hands-on approach. For too many years there has not been an emphasis on ag education in the cities. Consequently, this population is missing many opportunities for success. One of eight jobs in Ohio is agriculture related. The provisions of SB111 will be an important tool to help this situation by exposing youth to agriculture activities that they currently do not possess. For example, by having Cooperative Extension of OSU and CSU encourage the formation of many 4-H clubs and related activities, this will provide good hands-on learning of many facets of agriculture away from the classroom.

This is not about cows and corn. It is about utilizing agriculture practices in the cities with hoop houses, vegetable, fruit, and plant gardens, hydroponics, composting, and the values that accompany them. Children will learn about food production and the opportunities that come with this education.

From a personal standpoint, I have been very engaged in promoting 4-H and VoAg and FFA curriculum in city schools. In 2015 Cleveland East Tech High School and George Washington Carver K-8 school began ag-science, FFA, and 4-H curriculum. The same programs started at Gamble Montessori High School and Rothenberg K-8 Academy in the Cincinnati Public Schools. The results have been incredible to say the least. Graduation rate growth in these two pilot programs has far exceeded the other high schools. Since then, Cincinnati has added VoAg and FFA to two other schools, Aiken and Clark Montessori. The Zoo School already has a VoAg and FFA program.

SB 111 has other provisions to exempt temporary greenhouses from rules governing other buildings under the purview of the Board of Building Standards. In addition, the integrity of the CAUV program is protected by allowing aggregation of land in an urban area to be eligible when worked as a single unit.

The bottom line is that passage of SB 111 will enhance urban agriculture education by targeting children from 6 to eighteen years of age. Coupled

with a growing 4-H and VoAg FFA curriculum in urban schools, this will help prepare young people to lead productive and successful lives.

It's all about the kids.

I respectfully ask you to support and vote for SB 111.

Thank you.