

ISAIAH JONES, FILM STUDENT, COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 4. My name is Isaiah Jones, and I'm a student at Columbus State Community College studying digital video production.

As a film student studying in Ohio, with me earning my certification at the end of this year, it would be amazing if I could stay near my family in Ohio and work in the industry I have chosen as my career path. I believe Senate Bill 4 will allow me to do just that! Last year, I was asked to sit on a panel at the Film Columbus Summit on Film and Entertainment. I had to decline that opportunity because I had to stay with my grandmother and watch her for the day when no one else in the family was available. This bill would give me additional opportunities to participate in film industry events.

Many friends and upcoming graduates are all planning their next steps in their career. Many of them too would love to stay in Ohio. The current climate of the film industry in Ohio makes that very difficult. The limited number of films and the lower likelihood of actual studios being built in Ohio limits our decisions. Many friends are already talking about moving to Georgia or New York.

Please consider passing SB4. It's good not only for myself, but the multitude of graduates around Ohio in my position. It's also good for my family and allows me to stay in the state and be close to them.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for your time today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.