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Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair  
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Rules and Reference  
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Ways and Means

**Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee**  
**Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 — Sponsor Testimony**  
**Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 2.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 would urge Congress to expand hours that 14 and 15 year olds can work until 9 PM year round as long as they have parental consent. Doing so will help employers across Ohio and our country with their staffing problems and encourage kids to further develop their good working skills. This resolution also works in conjunction with my Senate Bill 30, which would make this same change in Ohio, and ensure no problems between our state's code and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Currently, federal and state law prohibit 14-15 year olds to be employed past 9 PM during the summer, and past 7 PM during the school year. In order to help our small businesses that struggle to find adequate staffing during the pandemic, a local chamber of commerce proposed that we permit these minors to work until 9 PM year round as long as their parents' consent.

Let's be clear . . . this resolution and Senate Bill 30 reinforce the guardrails protecting 14 and 15 year-olds that are already in code. Ohio law says 14 and 15 year-olds may not work between 9:00 pm and 7:00 am, and no more than 3 hours a day during school session. Additionally, 14 and 15 year-olds cannot work more than 18 hours per week while school is in session. These guardrails do not change under Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 or Senate Bill 30.

According to the United States Department of Labor, thirteen states currently allow youth under the age of 16 to work until at least 9 p.m. year round for most non-farm employment opportunities.

Additionally, in a moment I will speak on how this change would impact the State of Ohio through Senate Bill 30.

Thank you once again Chairman Cirino and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.