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Mark Mills
Mayor

Max Crown
Safety-Service Director

February 21, 2023

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee, I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 30. This legislation will benefit businesses struggling to find the workforce they need and allow more students to earn money while gaining work experience.

Ohio, like many other states, saw a major decline in employment in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic. Today many of these jobs are still unfilled. Due to the labor shortage some businesses have needed to cut their hours of operation. The ripple effect of this is significant. Reduced business hours decrease the opportunity for sales and lead to a loss of revenue. This not only impacts the businesses but also the community which benefits from the taxes on sales.

Prior to becoming the Mayor of Coshocton, I was the Director of Operations for a brand that established multiple chain franchises. I know from that experience that providing more opportunities for the teenage workforce to expand their hours will create more revenue for both the business and the employees. It will also put more dollars into the local economy.

Additionally, updating the Fair Labor Standards Act will benefit students, allowing them to gain experience within the workforce, learn new skills, and better understand the business environment. As a father of teenagers, I have witnessed my children benefit and grow from entering the workforce. It has allowed them independence while teaching them important life skills such as money management. By limiting work hours for people under 16 years of age, it takes away the ability for children who may be in a sport or afterschool activity from holding a job or making them choose between having a job and participating in afterschool activities. All options should be available to teenagers, and the parents not state regulations should be a determining factor when young people are considering getting a job. Simply extending the work hours for those under 16 by 2 hours will address many economic issues our state is currently facing.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my support of Senate Bill 30, and urge the committee to favorably pass this legislation. Doing so will benefit young people wanting to gain work experience and earn money, businesses facing labor shortage, and communities with increased revenue opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Mills'.

Mark Mills, Mayor – City of Coshocton