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**Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 Testimony
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Ohio Statehouse**

Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 urging Congress to expand hours so that 14- and 15-year-olds can work until 9 p.m. year-round, provided they have parental consent.

As President & CEO of the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce, I represent the needs of more than 400 small- to mid-sized business owners and entrepreneurs in a thriving area preparing for additional growth. I am testifying in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 as a positive and vital means to aid in the debilitating workforce issues businesses are facing nationwide.

By providing the opportunity for 14- or 15-year-olds to be employed between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. at any time during the year, Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 will ease staffing burdens faced by business owners in Ohio and across the country and has the added benefit of bolstering work skills and ethics of the next generation. By requiring approval from the minor's parent or legal guardian to work during these additional hours, Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 also preserves the protection of minors as intended by current law.

Thank you, Chairman Cirino and members of the committee, for the opportunity to share my support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2.

Sincerely,

Kim Barlag
President & CEO