

Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Mike Todd and along with my wife and business partner, Luann Bepler-Todd, we would like to lend our support of Senate Bill 30. Luann and I have been Dairy Queen Franchisees for over 25 years. The majority of our employees are young people. Without a doubt, young people have helped build our business and countless businesses in the state of Ohio.

We believe that this bill will provide Ohio's young people with a greater opportunity to learn the skills needed to be successful contributors to Ohio's economy. Think back to your first job. What valuable skills were learned? I'm guessing that communication, problem-solving, leadership, time management, and stress management are on that list. By giving Ohio's 14 and 15 year olds the choice to work until 9pm during the school year, you give Ohio's businesses a larger pool to provide jobs. My wife and I have found that a majority of our applicants fall in the 14-15 year old age group. Young people want to work. They want to earn their own money. They want to save. They want to spend. They want to feel the pride of contributing to a professional environment. This bi-partisan bill is the rare "Win-Win-Win": a win for Ohio's young people, a win for Ohio's businesses, and a win for the Ohio lawmakers who helped create it. Again, thank you for the honor and privilege of coming before you today.