



**Rep. Tom Young**

**37th Ohio House District**

Chairman Johnson, Vice-Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 225. And thank you to my Joint Sponsor Representative Jarrells for working with me on this important issue.

You have seen this legislation previously, in the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly as House Bill 427. I got involved at the end of the last GA, sitting in on interested party meetings, and having conversations with both Representatives Jarrells and Lipps. HB 427 touches the lives of members of one of the most vulnerable communities in Ohio.

I believe one of the highlights of this legislation is the assistance provided to employers in phasing out the sub-minimum wage. House Bill 427 requires the Director of Developmental Disabilities, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD), to assist employers with phasing out subminimum wages and to provide several services such as:

- Identifying and developing protections to ensure competitive, integrated employment for employees with disabilities while phasing out subminimum wages.
- Identify and collaborate with employees, employers, organizations, agencies, and stakeholders impacted by the subminimum wage phase out to assist them with implementing employer transition plans and creating sustainable, competitive employment.
- Propose a plan to establish and evaluate benchmarks for measuring progress with respect to implementing the transition plans each year until subminimum wages are eliminated.
- Identify and make recommendations for sustainable support, funding, and resources to assist individuals with disabilities with respect to phasing out subminimum wages, such as financing for the cost to implement and provide employment services, training, and support.

These support systems provide a resource for employers to work with as the phase out occurs and is an ongoing resource once that does happen. By passing House Bill 225 we can responsibly phase-out the current sub minimum wage in Ohio for Ohioans with a developmental disability. Thank you for your time and we would be happy to answer any questions.

