



**Representative Tex Fischer**  
**59<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District**

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally and Members of the Ohio House Commerce & Labor Committee, thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 246, the E-Verify Workforce Integrity Act. As my joint sponsor mentioned, this is a slightly modified version of a bill that passed the House last General Assembly 85-6.

If enacted, this bill will require contractors engaged in state or local public works construction as well as non-residential construction contractors to use the federal internet-based E-Verify system to ensure their new hires are legally eligible to work in the United States. This a very efficient process as employers are able to submit a completed I-9 form and receive confirmation of a person's eligibility to work in the United States in 3 to 5 seconds. Employers also do have 24-hour access to this system.

Not only will this bill serve as a protection for those who are legally eligible to work in the United States by preventing them by being undercut, but also a protection for those who are not by preventing employers from taking advantage of their status. This bill takes a big step forward in ensuring the integrity of the construction workforce while also helping to solve the issues created by illegal immigration. I would like to thank the members of this committee for the opportunity to testify today as well as my joint sponsor for all of his past work on this bill, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

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**[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)**  
**77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111**

**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-466-6107  
FAX: 614-719-3959  
Email: [rep59@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep59@ohiohouse.gov)