



Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally and all members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 50 on behalf of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association. The GOSA is a non-profit organization made up of 450+ members in the outdoor amusement industry. Our members service all the county fairs in the state of Ohio as well as other festivals and community events. Our member businesses provide the food, rides and games that Ohioans enjoy at these events. GOSA members are family owned & operated businesses and earn their living providing enjoyment to others.

As you have heard from businesses across the state, finding employees is a growing struggle. Our industry has those same hardships recruiting and retaining employees. Many of our members employ students to work in their businesses. It is a great opportunity for students to get work experience, earn money for college, or save to buy a car. We have found these students to be wonderful additions to our teams.

While our businesses are largely seasonal, we do have festivals, fairs and other events that happen during the school year. The County Fair schedule alone runs through October. We see most classes start well before the traditional end of summer, Labor Day, making retaining youth workers even more challenging. Under SB 50, our student employees could continue to earn money working during the evening, with their parents' approval. This not only helps Ohio's students continue to get real world work experience but opens additional opportunities for them to earn their own money. It can also help ease the strain of finding and hiring reliable staff if we are able to continue employing those students who have already proven themselves to be valuable and trusted team members.

We know the committee is also considering SCR 3 encouraging Congress to update their Fair Labor Standards Act to allow teenagers to gain additional employment experience. We similarly lend our support for that measure.

We thank Senator Schaffer for reintroducing this legislation, and we hope for favorable passage.

**Greater Ohio Showmen's Association**

*Working to Safeguard and Improve the Outdoor Amusement Business in Ohio*