

Good morning Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the committee.

I'm Jamie Shumaker, and I'm the Executive Director of the Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO currently represents over 35,000 workers and their families who belong to 89 different unions across Central Ohio.

The labor movement has long fought for labor protections for everyone, including the most vulnerable among us.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 50, which would weaken the protections for Ohio teenagers by allowing employers to schedule them to work later and put Ohio law in direct contradiction with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Since the AFL's first national convention in 1881, we have called for strong legal protections to prevent child labor abuses both nationwide and locally. We renew that call today in Ohio. Child labor laws protect young workers from exploitation, and there is no justification for weakening those safeguards.

The restrictions currently in place for businesses that employ young workers were passed nearly one hundred years ago in the FLSA and were designed with children's well-being in mind. These protections recognize that education and adequate rest are essential to a young person's development and success. It is shocking to me that this body would disagree and work to undermine those protections with this bill.

We should absolutely continue to limit how late teens can work, especially on school nights to make sure they have time to complete homework, participate in extracurriculars, and get adequate rest to maintain their mental and physical health and be prepared for the school day.

SB 50 sends the wrong message. The safety and well-being of Ohio kids is much more important than employers' desire for cheap labor. If passed, this bill would open the door to workplace injury and exploitation for young workers and that is unacceptable in our state.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member McNally, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in committee today. I strongly

urge you to reject SB 50 and instead uphold the protections currently in place in Ohio law. I am open to any questions from the committee, thank you.

Jamie L. Shumaker

Executive Director

Central Ohio Labor Council