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Rodney Creech State Representative

Representative Rodney Creech, State Representative to Ohio's 40th District
135th General Assembly
H.B. 125 Sponsor Testimony

House Education Committee Chairman Fowler-Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 125 today.

Today we are discussing a very important bill that will require excused absences from school for 4-H and FFA activities. As the state that established 4-H, Ohio is known as the forefront in paving the way for other states in terms of legislation impacting the involvement for the youth in countless extracurricular activities, such as the 4-H and the FFA. Each year, the over 29,000 Ohio FFA Members and over 150,000 4-H youth take part in these activities, and for some students it can bring scholarships and tuition money to help them pursue further education. Yet, some competitions and events happen to fall within the school calendar, requiring students to miss time from school or their 4-H or FFA events. Enriching the lives of our students outside the classroom is just as important as the curriculum that we prioritize inside the classroom.

This bill also acknowledges the issues of state testing and disciplinary situations. The bill prohibits excused absences during these times. H.B. 125 is simple, it's a common-sense bill, to help students participate in the activities that will enrich their lives while helping develop the skills that will help them contribute to the Ohio economy in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 125 today. I would be delighted to answer any questions you might have.