

Theresa Davis Proponent Testimony

Members of the House Education Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 125, which would ensure that 4-H and FFA programs in Ohio continue to thrive. This bill is crucial for supporting youth development and agriculture education.

As a long-time member of the Butler County 4-H Club, I have personally experienced the life-changing benefits of 4-H. The program has taught me valuable skills in specific skills like leadership, communication, project management, and it has fostered a sense of community and belonging.

The excused absences provision is particularly important, as it allows students to participate in 4-H and FFA activities without falling behind in their schoolwork. I've seen firsthand how this provision has enabled students to attend important competitions and events that have shaped their futures.

4-H and FFA play a vital role in preparing young people for careers in agriculture. By investing in these programs, we are investing in the future of our food system and our rural communities.

I urge you to please support HB 125 and ensure that 4-H and FFA programs continue to thrive in Ohio. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of our youth and the future of our state's agriculture industry. Thank you for your time and consideration.