



Buckeye Girls State

Education Committee Testimony

Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and remaining committee members good morning. I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf House Concurrent Resolution. 7, a resolution to support the hard work of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Buckeye Girls State.

I am Gwen Schroeder-Zulch the Buckeye Girls State Director for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio. Throughout my years involved with the American Legion Auxiliary I have seen the tremendous growth of our program similarly to Buckeye Boys State I have seen young ladies begin the program with a sheltered and nervous attitude towards the week to come and by the end they flourish with a newfound sense of confidence as citizens of a great Nation.

Since its inception in 1946 Buckeye Girls State has evolved from 30 Auxiliary members as staff to over 1000 delegates attending each year and over 175 Auxiliary members as volunteers to run the program all with the same goal in mind, provide citizenship training for girls of high school age in every Department of the American Legion Auxiliary; afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; and inform them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government. With this committees support we are able to ensure each student can get a comprehensive understanding of many governmental principles that we use to this day. They are also afforded the opportunity to practice the teachings and coupled with a strong emphasis on leadership traits these young men effectively run mock governments with positions ranging from state governor down to a city council member.

I respectfully ask that the committee vote in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 7.

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.C.R. 7 today.