



Majority Whip Nick Santucci

House Ways and Means Committee

Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 39

April 2, 2025

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 39, which would allow a temporary state income tax deduction for overtime wages.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we saw sharp increases in unemployment. In 2020, the unemployment rate in Ohio climbed over 16%,¹ as the restrictions and other circumstances caused by the pandemic made it difficult for people to work. Since that time, Ohio has been successful in significantly lowering the unemployment rate, but there is a constant and vital necessity to fill workforce needs.

This legislation will support Ohio's workforce by rewarding the people willing to put in extra time to meet the needs of their workplace. As we investigate solutions to filling gaps in Ohio's workforce, such as supporting workers' efforts to acquire in-demand soft skills and professional skills, we need to create an incentive for the people who are currently putting in extra hours to fill needed positions. It's important that our workers feel encouraged to continue coming to work and working hard so that our workforce can stay strong.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 39. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

¹ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, *Labor Market Information in Review: 2021 Annual Economic Report*, "The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates," https://ohiolmi.com/_docs/ResearchPublications/publications/2021AnnualEconomicReport.pdf page 4.