



Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 50

February 18, 2025,

Chair Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

On behalf of Ohio's 24,821 restaurant, hospitality, and foodservice locations and the 564,000 employees who work in Ohio's hospitality businesses, the Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance appreciates the opportunity to support Senate Bill 50 and thanks Senator Schaffer for sponsoring this important legislation.

The skills and fundamentals that young people learn in the workforce are invaluable and will serve them well for the rest of their career. Young people learn academics while going through school and have access to an endless repository of information right in their pockets. But the things they learn while working are not something you can easily learn in a class or online. Being employed, especially in sectors like foodservice, retail and hospitality, offers these young people the opportunity to learn essential skills like customer service, problem solving, and time management.

Unfortunately, the current 7:00 pm limit on 14 and 15 year olds prevents many willing teenagers from having more opportunities to grow. While limiting how late younger workers can work is appropriate, we believe that 9:00 pm is a more reasonable limit. The later time opens up more opportunities for personal growth and skill building.

We appreciate and support the fact that this legislation clearly states that parental consent is required for those young people who want these opportunities. This choice should clearly belong to the family, which is clear in the legislation's language.

Ohio's restaurants value all who work in hospitality in our state and look forward to this legislation providing younger Ohioans the opportunity to learn, grow and earn.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support this important legislation and for the work you all do to ensure that Ohio's hospitality businesses continue to provide robust employment and career opportunities and contribute to the thriving, vibrant communities they serve.

Tod Bowen

Managing Director of External Affairs & Government Relations

Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance