

Gabe Guidarini – House Bill 246 Testimony, Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Chair Koehler, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Ohio Senate Workforce Development Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony for House Bill 246.

As Chairman of the Ohio College Republican Federation, I speak on behalf of thousands of student members and their peers in Ohio who are eager to enter the workforce, build careers, and contribute to our state's growth. For many of these young people, especially those pursuing trades, engineering, or construction management in an increasingly competitive job market, being given a fair shot is a major concern. H.B. 246 helps guarantee that fairness by requiring nonresidential construction employers to use E-Verify, ensuring that these jobs go to those legally authorized to work here. It protects the opportunities that belong to students and graduates who have followed the law, paid their dues, and worked hard to earn their place in Ohio's economy.

This bill is about prioritizing those who play by the rules. E-Verify is a simple, federally administered program that helps employers confirm work eligibility quickly and accurately. By making its use standard in the construction industry, Ohio is helping honest contractors and employers who have long followed the law compete on even footing instead of being undercut by those who ignore it. When every worker on a site has been properly verified, wages stay fair, safety standards improve, and every team member can take pride in being part of a lawful and transparent workforce.

For young people entering the job market, stability and fairness are everything. Students and apprentices should not have to compete with illegal or off-the-books labor that drives down wages and opportunity. H.B. 246 helps create a construction environment where skill, work ethic, and accountability rather than exploitation, determines success. It ensures that young Ohioans and lawful residents can access apprenticeships, internships, and full-time positions knowing that their efforts won't be devalued by employers who cut corners. This bill stands for the dignity of work and the integrity of opportunity—values that every Ohioan, young and old, can stand behind.

H.B. 246 sends a clear message: Ohio values workers and employers who respect the laws of our country. For the next generation of Ohio's workforce, my peers, the ones preparing to build the physical backbone of our state—this legislation represents fairness, accountability, and respect for the rule of law.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony on House Bill 246. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Gabe Guidarini