



**Chairman Kyle Koehler
Senate Workforce Development Committee
10/28/25
Griffin Weasel
Vice President of Government Affairs & Communications
Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio
H.B. 246 – Interested Party Testimony**

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

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I am Griffin Weasel, Vice President of Government Affairs & Communications for the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio (ABC). Representing nearly 800 builders and contractors in the commercial construction industry across Ohio's three chapters, ABC advocates for free-market principles and legislation that supports fair and open competition in the commercial construction industry.

I am testifying today as an interested party on behalf of ABC of Ohio regarding H.B. 246, a measure requiring the use of E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of new workers in the construction industry. ABC of Ohio believes that if H.B. 246 is a sound policy for the construction industry, it should be applied uniformly across all industries.

I bring to the committee's attention today a recent, and high profile national incident: the arrest of Ian Andre Roberts, the former superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools in Iowa. Roberts, an undocumented immigrant from Guyana, had an extensive criminal history that might have been identified earlier through proper employment verification processes.

No testimony has been presented by any witness in either chamber suggesting that Ohio's construction industry has a higher prevalence of undocumented workers compared to other sectors. Therefore, we believe it is critical for H.B. 246 to apply to all industries to ensure comprehensive compliance with employment eligibility laws.

While ABC of Ohio is submitting interested party testimony for H.B. 246, we believe this legislation can significantly benefit our state by ensuring that jobs in Ohio are reserved for American citizens and legal residents, in compliance with federal and state laws. We see no reason why H.B. 246 should be limited to the construction industry and recommend amending it to apply to all employers.

Thank you to Chairman Koehler and the rest of the members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee for hearing my testimony today and I look forward to answering any questions.