



Tim Schaffer
State Senator
20th District

Ohio Senate
Senate Building
Room 128, First Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8076
sd20@ohiosenate.gov

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Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senate Concurrent Resolution 14— Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday February 9, 2022

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Cirino, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 14.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 would urge Congress to permit 14 and 15 year olds to work until 9 PM year round as long as they have parental consent. Doing so will help employers across Ohio and our country with their staffing problems, and, to keep their doors open. This resolution also works in conjunction with Senator Maharath and my Senate Bill 251, which would make this same change in Ohio, and ensure no problems between our state's code and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Currently, federal and state law prohibit 14-15 year olds to be employed past 9 PM during the summer, and past 7 PM during the school year. In order to help our small businesses that struggle to find adequate staffing during the pandemic, a local chamber of commerce proposed that we permit these minors to work until 9 PM year round as long as their parents' consent.

This resolution states clearly that if a minor wishes to work until 9 PM during the school year, the minor must have the approval to do so from the person's parent or legal guardian.

According to the United States Department of Labor, thirteen states currently allow youth under the age of 16 to work until at least 9 p.m. year round for most non-farm employment opportunities. Michigan, for example, prohibits employment from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Additionally, I have already spoken on how this change would impact the State of Ohio through Senate Bill 251, which also has the support of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio NFIB, and the Ohio Restaurant Association.

Thank you once again Chairman Johnson and members of the committee for the opportunity to present this legislation to you today. I will be glad to answer any questions at this time.