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Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hottinger, Ranking Member Craig, thank you for the opportunity to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 282.

Senate Bill 282 will create an additional line of communication between employers and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. This legislation will create a process for an employer to make a report through Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services' webpage in respect to an applicant's employment seeking activity.

Through ODJFS, there is a process in which employers can report fraud, but there is currently not a means for businesses to report employment activity, or other actions that are not necessarily considered fraud. Examples of potential reportable actions could include, but are not limited to, not showing up for job interviews, and turning down suitable work. It is crucial that Jobs and Family Services be aware of this activity and have the applicable information to start an investigation if warranted.

This idea was brought to my attention by business owners in my district who expressed their frustration in finding capable employees willing to work. I worked with ODJFS when drafting the language who was very receptive to the idea.

Senate Bill 282 is simple, straightforward legislation that will allow for greater communication between employers and Jobs and Family Services. This reporting process will be another tool for employers and JFS to use to ensure that potential employees are following unemployment compensation benefit requirements properly. A link on Ohio Jobs and Family Services' webpage will allow for a direct, concise way for employers to make reports and provide JFS with the required information to follow up if necessary.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ODJFS has set up additional communication lines including an email address and a form that is currently under revision for employers to report eligibility issues. This could help in serving as a model for the reporting system called for in this legislation. I want to ensure that employers have a streamlined process in reporting to ODJFS as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver testimony on Senate Bill 282. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.