

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and Members of the House Agriculture Conservation Committee:

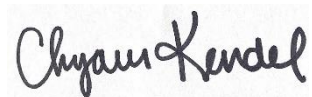
Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 507. I am Chyann Kendel, a current senior at Wilmington College where I am majoring in Agricultural Education with a concentration in Animal Sciences. I am a first-generation agriculturalist and my exposure to agriculture began through youth organizations like 4-H and FFA. Throughout my 11 years of 4-H and FFA experiences, I have raised breeding and market rabbits as well as exhibition poultry and market broilers. I am speaking today on the experiences of my past and the hope for our future.

Throughout my time in high school, I faced the challenges of owning and managing animals inside the city limits of Eaton, Ohio. I was fortunate to have family friends that allowed me to share in raising 100 market broilers each summer, but it was not the same as owning my own birds. Market birds and exhibition poultry are vastly different in their intended purpose and use. To meet my desire, and junior fair requirement of having exhibition birds to show with my market animals, I would turn to my local farm supply store as an outlet to buy my birds. The current minimum purchase of 6 birds was problematic as I did not have a need for, or space to provide for 6 birds at home. I successfully convinced them to allow me to buy 3 chicks and 3 ducks one year, only to have to give away the 3 ducks just a few weeks later. If I would have just been able to buy 3 chicks, I would not have had this complication. It seems like a minor problem, but it is because of this that I have passed on the opportunity to raise poultry. If someone with experience in raising poultry thinks twice, it leads me to believe that others would also do the same.

It is my hope that the future eliminates simple obstacles facing Ohioans, like me. This past week I was fortunate to be reconnected with my interest in raising chickens as my placement school just received 50 birds to raise from chick to processed chicken. I know that students in my program will now be equipped with the skill and knowledge needed to care for birds. However, it leaves me to ask the question, are they more likely to take an opportunity to grow their own birds if the minimum purchase is 3 or 6? This experience has opened my eyes to see the value in easier access to the agricultural industry. In order to grow as an industry, we must make decisions that benefit our current industry and promote those that will join in the future. Poultry is an access point to at home agricultural meat and egg production that should not be underestimated. It is my hope that others, like myself, find a connection to the agricultural industry like I have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chyann Kendel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chyann Kendel