

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: . June 5, 2023

Name: . Amelia Tarbill

Are you representing: Yourself Organization x

Organization (If Applicable): Circleville-PRCTC FFA

Position/Title: Chapter Treasurer

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No X

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB135

Specific Issue: .

Are you testifying as a: Proponent X Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes X written No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? .Written only

Please provide a brief statement on your position: This past year, I was a Freshman at Circleville High School. I feel so blessed to have had the experience of joining FFA and becoming an officer. The Circleville-PRCTC FFA has allowed me to explore many career paths I had no idea existed. Participating in a high school FFA Chapter allows you to go on many fun trips and activities involving agriculture. Most of these trips are during school hours and I have yet to have trouble getting excused absences for these activities because they are for a class and excused like a field trip. Although, my out of school trips and activities that involve agriculture education have showed some difficulty.

I have been riding horses competitively since 2016 and many of the shows are during school hours. In the past couple of years, my middle school and high school classes have led me to be concerned about not getting excused absences because I could

my teachers could deny me the ability to complete my work. Also, as a straight-A student I try to keep all my work made up right on time. I value my education immensely and to lose the opportunity to willingly make up work because I was on another educative activity has taken a toll on me.

My experiences as a high school student and an equestrian have taught me to always stay on top of my work. When I go to horse shows I meet so many people that have taught so much about different industries I can go into. If I was not granted the ability to go on these trips because of school work I would miss out on so much. My agriculture related activities have taught me so many important lessons such as perseverance and sportsmanship. These are very important skills that my generation needs in order to get jobs and succeed in life.

In House Bill 135 it states “The district shall give the student the opportunity to make up any school work missed during the absence,” and “...To grant students excused absences from school for participation in 4-H and FFA programs and activities.” If this Bill passed I would feel relief as I could attend my activities that provide valuable knowledge on future career paths without the consequence of an unexcused absence. I also know that many other students in Ohio would benefit from this law because they would also have the freedom to educate themselves on their future, FFA and 4-H provide many opportunities for students to learn about agriculture. Students would enjoy their activities, as long as they were related to agriculture, excused from school. Over 500,000 students in Ohio are in 4-H and FFA according *The Ohio State University*. Every one of these students participate in agriculture activities in and out of school so it is important to allow them to experience anything that but come up in their future.

I believe that if House Bill 135 was passed students would have more opportunities to explore the field of agriculture. Everyday more jobs open up in agriculture and we need more people interested in them.

According to *Ohio Country Journal*, agriculture contributes over one-hundred billion dollars to our economy and one out of every seven workers is employed in ag-related occupations. The opportunities House Bill 135 will offer if it is passed will allow students in FFA and 4-H organizations to explore new jobs in their cities.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.