

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

S. C. R. No. 2

Senator Schaffer

Cosponsors: Senators Cirino, Reineke, Brenner, Wilson, Romanchuk

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge Congress to make changes to the Fair Labor Standards 1
Act to allow a person under 16 years of age to be employed 2
between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. during the school year. 3

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The United States lost over 22 million jobs and 4
had an unemployment rate of 14.8% in April 2020, as a result of 5
the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest observed unemployment rate 6
since data collection began in 1948; and 7

WHEREAS, Employers are still experiencing a shortage of 8
workers to fill the over 10 million currently available 9
positions, despite the economy recovering jobs that were lost 10
because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and 11

WHEREAS, Ohio had lost nearly 900,000 jobs and recorded a 12
16.4% unemployment rate in April 2020, due to the COVID-19 13
pandemic, and still has not recovered nearly 105,000 of those 14
jobs that had been lost; and 15

WHEREAS, Teenage workers are becoming a larger portion of 16
the United States workforce, with an unemployment rate of 11.3% 17
in November 2022; and 18

WHEREAS, Business owners have had to adjust their 19
operations in response to the ongoing labor shortage, including 20
decreasing their open hours; and 21

WHEREAS, Business owners could more quickly return to 22
regular operations, including resuming their usual open hours, 23
by being able to hire the necessary staff to meet their 24
operating needs; and 25

WHEREAS, The Fair Labor Standards Act and Ohio law permits 26
a person under 16 years of age to work until 9 p.m. during 27
summer months or other school holidays; and 28

WHEREAS, Extending the hours which a person under 16 years 29
of age may work during the school year allows business owners to 30
hire the staff required for the business to resume operating 31
during its usual hours of operation; and 32

WHEREAS, Local economic growth results when more people are 33
employed and earn wages to spend on goods and services produced 34
by businesses within the local area, which in turn requires 35
businesses to hire more workers to meet the increased demand; 36
now therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General 38
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United 39
States to make changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act to allow 40
a person under 16 years of age to be employed between 7 p.m. and 41
9 p.m. during the school year if the person has approval to do 42
so from the person's parent or legal guardian; and be it further 43

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 44
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro 45
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker 46
and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the 47
members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media 48
of Ohio. 49