

Testimony Provided By  
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House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee  
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Harrisburg, PA

Chairman Stern, Chairman Kirkland and members of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill (HB) 137.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association (PRA) I write to express our support for HB 137, sponsored by Rep. Godshall. HB 137 mandates that a school term may not begin prior to the day after Labor Day.

The PRA agrees with the majority of Pennsylvanians in a statewide survey conducted this year that the best time for schools to start is after the Labor Day holiday. Many seasonal employees in hospitality businesses are high school students. These businesses are experiencing significant staffing challenges in August—a popular month for tourism—when they lose most of their seasonal workforce because schools are starting earlier each year.

Starting the school term on the day after Labor Day benefits the seasonal employee, the business and its customers, and Pennsylvania's economy. Summer jobs are important because they provide high school students with the opportunity to earn income and learn responsibility. A post-Labor Day start to school allows students to make the most of their summer employment experience.

On behalf of PRA, I respectfully ask that you support HB 137. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today.