

Testimony Regarding HB 2196, The Youth Employment Incentive Tax Credit

Submitted by:

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Board Chair, Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I'm Tom VanKirk, Chief Executive Officer of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney in Pittsburgh. I am pleased to welcome you to Pittsburgh and to Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney for this hearing on HB 2196. I like to think that Pittsburgh is a leader in economic development, and economic development is now largely about effective workforce development. HB 2196 can be a step in the right direction for effective career training for tomorrow's workforce.

On behalf of the Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania I want to offer support for HB 2196. This is a bill that offers financial incentives through tax credits to private sector companies that hire interns or purchase those credits from nonprofits that hire interns. I hope that our hosting this hearing in a private sector office helps to emphasize the point that private employers want to participate in developing the workforce of the future. And the sponsors of this bill have planned ways to expand private employers participation in workforce development by relieving some of the financial burdens associated with bringing interns into the workplace. I congratulate you on this effort and I hope the bill passes quickly.

Law firms know the benefit of interns. Law students routinely gain experience and exposure to various areas of legal practice through internships while in law school. This is of great benefit to the student as well as to the law firm. Interns contribute much while they learn. Even though most law school interns would not be eligible to create tax credits for their employers under HB 2196 because they are older than 21, law school interns are a great model for the need to learn through real-life work.

Almost any effort by the legislature to expand the ability of students to choose careers based on experience in those career areas is to be applauded.

Again, welcome to Pittsburgh and I hope that your work here today is productive. For those of you not from this area, please come back frequently and enjoy what we have to offer here. Thank you.