

Ohio House of Representatives
Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee
Chairman, Ron Young

Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools
June 26, 2018

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools (Ohio CCS), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding our concerns for HB551 (Perales).

As you may know, in Ohio there are 91 Career Technical Planning Districts, and three career-technical delivery models at the secondary education level that focus on workforce development. There are Career Centers, also known as Joint Vocational School Districts, single traditional school districts, known as Comprehensives, and Compacts; Compacts share delivery and costs through service agreements between multiple school districts. Ohio CCS represents 42 Compact and Comprehensive career-technical planning districts in the state.

Ohio's CTE programs have a undisputed successful history of preparing students to have long-term success by providing skills and training that can be utilized from company-to-company within multiple industries. The skills, training and credentials CTE students receive are versatile and buildable allowing them to promote themselves to employers both now and in their future endeavors. Our programs regularly partner with industry to place students in safe, beneficial learning environments while meeting the workforce needs of our local industry.

We are concerned that allowing minors to be employed in hazardous occupations at the young, inexperienced age of sixteen could lead to students to forgo career-technical education or worse the final two years of their high school education. This situation could leave the young person stranded with skills specific to only their first employer, limiting their potential for gainful employment for rest of their adult lives; this benefits neither the student, nor the future workforce needs of the state.

In conclusion, we understand the needs of industry to secure a skilled workforce and their current challenges in meeting that need, however we do not believe that the need of industry should be borne at the expense of our young people by limiting their potential to learn universal trade skills and earn versatile industry credentials that will follow them for the entirety of their careers.

We respectfully request the inclusion of language in the bill to require participation in a related CTE program for a minor who wished to work in a hazardous occupation.

We look forward to continuing our many partnerships with business and industry by supplying highly trained, skilled and competent graduates.

Thank you. If you have any questions regarding our testimony, please do not hesitate to contact us.