

Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

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Proponent Testimony / House Bill 512

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Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Greg Edinger and I submit this written testimony on behalf of Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Centers. Since Representative Bill Reineke took office, our productive discussions and his support of career and technical education have always revolved around job creation, workforce development, and workforce training.

Under HB 512, workforce development will be identified as a strategic priority, in recognition of the fact that significant workforce challenges currently exist in Ohio. It appears the goal is to make a commitment to developing a clear, focused, and streamlined education policy that will work for all students.

Vanguard- Sentinel Career & Technology Centers have long been a firm believer in a collaborative approach. As a Career Center, we work with our local educational partners, local chambers, our local workforce development agencies, and our local business/industry partners to deliver Career Tech Education to our students. Such robust collaboration has always resulted in great success.

Based on the successful track record of the collaborative approach, there can be great value in multiple agencies working under one umbrella with the goal of developing policy to align the education systems. We have a lot of great educational resources in the state of Ohio. Career Tech Centers are one of the most under-utilized resource when it comes to career focused training and this bill has a focus on workforce and career readiness. Aligning all three of the proposed entities under one agency could facilitate the opportunity to recognize the valuable resources that exist and encourage more collaboration, as opposed to competition. It should be the goal of all education stakeholders to align education initiatives so we can be successful in addressing the critical workforce demands our state is currently encountering.

Vanguard-Sentinel CTC pride ourselves on excellence and we want to ensure that not only our graduates, but the future workforce in our community – from PreK and up – have the knowledge and skills employers need to not only keep Ohio competitive, but to also ensure our students are set up for success. Collaboration is essential to making this goal a reality and the development of a consistent and coherent focused education policy that will work for all Ohio students should be a priority.

Rep. Reineke has indicated that a goal of this legislation is to streamline workforce development initiatives and enhance career-technical education. To the extent that the bill achieves these worthy policy objectives, it is something our school could support. Thank you.