



Ohio House of Representatives

Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

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Proponent Testimony / HB 512

Testimony of Lisa Tuttle-Huff, Superintendent, US Grant Career Center

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, my name is Lisa Tuttle-Huff and I am superintendent of US Grant Career Center in Bethel, Ohio, in Clermont County. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Let me tell you a little bit about Grant Career Center. We are located in Southwest Ohio and serve primarily disadvantaged students. Almost 49% of our students are on free or reduced lunch, plus there are countless others who are eligible but don't take advantage of the program.

With this background, you can understand why it is so important that we provide students employment opportunities and the ability to learn a skill. In addition, we have a business community with a need for skilled workers.

Why is it not a simple process to get students employment and fill business needs? After five years of being a career-tech center superintendent and 25 years in education, I realize there is disconnect between what business values and how career-tech is evaluated. I find it difficult to do what is best for students, because accountability measures do not recognize the needs of business.

For example, we have local businesses who often turn to us for interns and ultimately employees. In order for Grant Career Center to allow students to intern at their facility, we must work with Ohio Means Jobs and Ohio Department of Education, as well as track data on student employment.

If we had one entity that understood the connection between workforce development and education, career-tech could serve students and business at a level that is not encumbered by metrics that don't take into account skill and job performance. We need a system that understands that filling a business need is in itself a learning experience. Many of our students do not excel on written tests, but can perform complicated and high tech skills within the workplace. Students receive rave reviews from their supervisors on the job sites, because they can perform needed functions and often are the best employees because they have fundamental knowledge and skills.

I welcome any change that streamlines the process of matching prepared students with job opportunities in high school and upon graduation.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions.