



## Representative Bill Reineke & Representative Robert Cupp

### Sponsor Testimony HB 166

May 17, 2017

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Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney,

And members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

Representative Cupp and myself, wish to thank you for hearing HB 166

HB 166 will enhance delivery of workforce development throughout the state.

There is a tremendous need and opportunity to develop a highly skilled workforce throughout our state. Businesses from all regions are citing a lack of qualified candidates as a main reason why they cannot grow their businesses. The needs seem to vary as well throughout the state, as I know in my area there is a critical shortage or need for trained professionals ranging from medical help to engineers to computer programmers to mechanics to electrical trades to plumbers.

As a member of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, along with Senator Beagle, Representative Barnes and Senator Williams, we have participated in the formation of the key recommendations to improve workforce development, benefitting the workers and businesses alike.

- This is a comprehensive bill designed to streamline Ohio law to comply with the Federal Workforce and Innovation Act (WIOA)
- HB 166 allows for the development of a competency based Ohio means Jobs Ready certificate
  - Employers have told us time-and-time again that many of their job applicants don't have the necessary soft skills to succeed in certain work environments (such as the service industry, which almost 80% of all business start-ups are in). Teaching the essential soft skills such as teamwork, problem solving, reliability, and punctuality will help both our students and our business community, it is mutually beneficial.

- This legislation will create a STEAM Designation, Science, technology, engineering, arts, and Math
  - This creates a designation for certain STEM schools that integrate art and design into their current STEM curriculum and expands the grades that STEM and STEAM schools can serve to K-12.
  
- HB 166 will recognize high school credits for students who participate in work based learning experiences
  - Participating in “hands-on training” and gaining real-world experience is how students can attain the “hard skills” necessary to start their journey in many technical careers.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE CUPP**

HB 166 adopts an optional, recognized Pre-Apprenticeship program for career -technical students

- This bill reforms certificates of qualification for employment to help inmates transition into the workforce upon reentry
  
- This legislation requires the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to create Workforce regional counseling collaboratives utilizing local partnerships in each of the JOBS Ohio regions
  
- And HB 166 will designate the first week of May as Ohio In-Demand Jobs week.

Representative Reineke and I both have active career centers and districts that are in desperate need to have our school systems and workforces mesh better together to produce prepared and ready participants in search of in-demand jobs

Thank you, we will be happy to address any concerns or questions.