



HB 110 College Credit Apprenticeships
House Higher Education and Workforce Development
Chairman Mike Duffey
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Chairman Duffey and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, my name is Bryan Williams. I represent the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio. I am pleased to offer proponent testimony on behalf of HB 110.

ABC is a professional association of construction and constructed related members dedicated to supporting the merit shop commercial contractor in Ohio and throughout the country. Today, that means advocating for improved pathways into the construction trades to meet the profound labor shortage we are now experiencing.

There are over 500,000 unfilled construction jobs available in the United States and in Ohio there are over 25,000 high paying vacant positions now available.

In Ohio, there is an 8 ½ month backlog according to the Construction Backlog Indicator. That means once a commercial development is planned and a contractor is selected, the buyer must wait 8 ½ months before the project will begin. The economic activity that will occur must wait also.

Ohio's economic growth suffers due to the shortage of trained construction employees.

At every level of government politicians say we must do more to improve the career pathways into career technical endeavors. Well, HB 110 does just that.

Presently Ohio policy promotes college as a post high school endeavor through its College Credit Plus program. In Ohio the state pays for students to take college credit course so they may graduate from high school with college credits already earned and already paid for.

Why don't we do the same thing for students who want to graduate from high school and go into the workforce? We don't but we should. HB 110 does just that.

HB 110 allows a high school student to enroll in a U.S. Department of Labor certified apprenticeship program, while enrolled in high school, at the state's expense. Students may learn valuable career technical training from nationally credentialed apprenticeship programs whose training credits are portable throughout the entire country. Upon graduation a student will find an eager employer who will hire them and continue their training.

We have all heard the sad stories of students who graduate from high school, take on large college loans only to be saddled with huge debt and no college degree. HB 110 could be a wonderful alternative for students who graduate from high school work-ready with emerging apprentice skills.

HB 110 is labor neutral and will help fuel Ohio's construction and manufacturing demand for a trained workforce. College is great. But it is not for everyone. And that is a good thing. Our economy is pleading for more construction and manufacturing able employees. Please supplement Ohio's college option by passing HB 110. In doing so, you will provide willing students a lucrative career pathway into one of the most in-demand job in the state.