



**Ohio House of Representatives
Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee**

**Opponent Testimony of the Career-Technical Education ("CTE") Associations
HB110 (Hagan) Apprenticeships
4-11-2018**

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the career-technical education community in Ohio, represented by the Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents (OACTS), Ohio Association of Career Technical Education (Ohio ACTE), and the Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools (CCS).*

First, our associations would like to thank the sponsor and Committee for their interest in encouraging apprenticeship opportunities. Our career-technical schools are proud to have developed strong pre-apprenticeship programs over the past decade, which have been (encouragingly) growing. For example, in the past year, the number of students participating in approved apprenticeships at Upper Valley Career Center (Miami County) has doubled to 62. We expect that number to increase as we identify students this spring for next year's opportunities.

Our students typically rotate, working two weeks and then attending school for two weeks. While they are on campus, the apprentices take academic courses required for graduation as well as receive additional skills-based training in their career tech program. The two weeks on campus also provide our instructors the opportunity to teach new skills and reinforce skills at the request of the student's employer. In addition, some students opt to enroll in online college courses during this time.

Many schools, such as Upper Valley Career Center, employ a full time Apprenticeship Coordinator to oversee these programs. The success of our apprenticeship programs is due to the strong support of the applicable District and Board of Education, the area employers, regional economic development directors and the relationships developed by our apprenticeship coordinators. We also collaborate closely with Apprenticeship Ohio and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.

The career-technical education community believes in the need to grow apprenticeship programs. We also believe that the elements included in HB110 would be detrimental to this goal. The bill creates a subprogram of College Credit Plus that is focused on apprenticeships. School districts would now be required to fund each apprentice according to an established formula in order to pay businesses for participating in the apprenticeship program. This component does not take into account the costs districts already incur to pay staff, including a dedicated coordinator, who is responsible for developing relationships with employers, identifying apprenticeship sites, evaluating potential apprentices who must meet specific eligibility criteria, holding informational meetings with parents, matching apprentices with employers, creating detailed training plans in collaboration with the employer, school, parent and student, monitoring the student's progress, maintaining ongoing employer contact, and ensuring all requirements of the apprenticeship program are met. In return, the employer is receiving a well-trained, supervised, and productive entry level employee. Why should schools be penalized with loss of funding that would

then be given to employers? There are no short cuts to developing and promoting apprenticeships. It is a process that requires strong commitment from a school district - a commitment that includes the expenditure of significant resources. To reiterate, taking funds from school districts and paying businesses will discourage (not promote) the development of apprenticeships.

Thank you for your consideration.

**In Ohio there are 91 Career Technical Planning Districts. There are three career-technical delivery models at the secondary education level that focus on workforce development. They are Career Centers, also known as Joint Vocational School Districts, single traditional school districts, and Compacts. Compacts share delivery and costs through service agreements between multiple school districts. The Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career Technical Schools, represents 42 Compact and Comprehensive career-technical planning districts with the Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents represent 49 Career Centers, and the Ohio Association of Career Technical Education represents the entire career-tech community, including superintendents, administrators, teachers and school board members.*