



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 4

State Representative Tracy Richardson, District 86

Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice-Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki and members of the Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 4 today. My joint sponsor, Representative Robinson, and I are excited to explain the details of this bipartisan, priority legislation to streamline Ohio's process for creating new job training certificates and industry-recognized credential programs. This bill utilizes our current resources more effectively without adding cost.

House Bill 4 will designate the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation as the centralized point of contact for employers needing assistance with industry-recognized credentials and certificates. By creating this "one stop shop", and more efficiently utilizing our current resources, HB 4 will make it easier for job creators to navigate this process, affording them more time and resources to focus on their primary business.

This bill will empower the Office of Workforce Transformation to serve as a voice for the business community. When a business is looking to expand or move into Ohio, they will be able to work directly with the Office of Workforce Transformation to either facilitate new industry-recognized credentials and certificates, or connect employers to existing programs and resources. If a new credential or certificate appears necessary, the Office of Workforce Transformation will work collaboratively with the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to ensure the necessary curriculum, standards, or materials development.

My background includes 5 years of experience as an HR Generalist for a Fortune 200 company with a focus on training and workforce development. I can honestly say that I wish my company

at the time had the opportunity to engage with the Office of Workforce Transformation. It is critically important that employers have a straightforward way to communicate their needs!

This bill does not change the approval authority for industry-recognized credentials and certificates, and will not interfere with existing relationships between local businesses and regional educational resources. The Office of Workforce Transformation's role will be to guide employers through the process in order to facilitate their workforce development efforts.

By having the Office of Workforce Transformation become the centralized point of contact for employers on this issue, we can reduce red tape, improve access to training and allow businesses to spend more time focused on their core missions. We will optimize the use of our current resources without the need for additional costs and ultimately will help Ohioans compete in the 21st Century changing economy.

Representative Robinson and I highly appreciate your time and your consideration of this common sense, bipartisan, and collaborative approach to addressing our business and workforce needs and urge your support for HB 4.