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Joint Education Oversight
Committee

Phillip M. Robinson Jr.
State Representative
Ohio House District 6

House Bill 4 Sponsor Testimony
House Economic & Workforce Development Committee
May 22, 2019

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. My joint sponsor, Representative Richardson, and I look forward to productive conversations with the committee and all related stakeholders.

House Bill 4 is a bipartisan approach that will set up the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) as the "one-stop-shop" and potential first point of contact for employers and businesses proposing certificate or industry-recognized credential in specialized positions that need specified training, or to be connected to existing programs. OWT will guide businesses through the process of connecting with local schools and colleges to host the programs, work with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) in creating the certification and credential programs, and help make the process as easy as possible for businesses to bring new employment opportunities to the Ohio workforce.

This will be a collaborative process between OWT, ODE, and ODHE. Rather than a business wasting time on figuring out the process, they will simply go straight to OWT who will walk them through the process and make it as easy as possible. It will not change the current standards and methods for creating certificate and credential programs, instead codify OWT as a resource for businesses to expedite the process so we can get more employment training options to the Ohio workforce as efficiently as possible, helping Ohioans looking to make a better life for themselves and their family.

Some examples could include a tech company moving to the state and they want to have employees trained in specific computer coding or a new program. A car company is creating a new electric or autonomous vehicle and need employees trained in special manufacturing and development methods. The sky is the limit in terms of what employers can have in training and the types of better paying jobs it will bring to Ohio.

The beneficiaries are numerous. Both high school graduates looking for skilled trades, or college graduates looking for higher training; can benefit and gain access to better paying jobs

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through these credential programs. Both the incumbent workforce, and unemployed job seekers can find new opportunities. These changes will also both attract new businesses coming to Ohio, and current employers in the state. Businesses will be able to start new operations and hire more people quicker and with more confidence in the process.

As the son of two entrepreneurs, I appreciate and support ways to aide both workers and employers as they both improve their businesses and careers. Through my non-profit work at City Year, all the time I see young people who may not be looking to college for a career but still want a good paying job. While affordable access to college is important for our children's future, what is of equal importance is workforce training and certification for our children and other Ohioans to have more than one choice to lead to the fulfillment of the Ohio promise, Ohioans don't want a hand out, they want a leg up, a great way to achieve this is through training options for better paying jobs and careers.

Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice-Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki, and members of the committee, we thank you for your time and Representative Richardson and I are happy to answer any questions you have.

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