

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

*Retail Merchants*  
*The voice of retail since 1922*

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June 5, 2016

The Honorable Paul Zeltwanger  
Chairman  
House Economic and Workforce Development Committee  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Zeltwanger:

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and our 7,000 plus members, I write to express our strong support for House Bill 4.

Industry-recognized credentials are crucial to developing a workforce that can meet the needs of today and the future; this is especially true for our industry which represents one out of every four Ohio jobs. These credentials help ensure workers have the necessary skills for in-demand jobs and give employers greater piece-of-mind that prospective hires are ready to work and thrive. Recognizing the immense importance of industry recognized credentials, last year in partnership with the National Retail Federation (NRF), we embarked on certifying three credentials through the Ohio Department of Education. With the support of our association and the NRF, we were able to effectively navigate the process however, for an employer to try to do this alone it could be arduous. We greatly appreciate the help of the Department with the process and believe streamlining the certification of industry-recognized credentials as outlined in House Bill 4 is the right approach.

Enabling employers to have a more direct process to certify their credentials and creating a liaison for employers at the Office of Workforce Transformation, will increase efficiency and make Ohio an even better place to do business.

In summary, House Bill 4 is a win for Ohio workers, employers, and taxpayers. We applaud the sponsors, Reps. Richardson and Robinson for bringing forth the legislation and urge support from members of the committee. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alex T. Boehnke  
Manager of Public Affairs  
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

CC: Members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee