

YASKAWA

June 4th, 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 provide written testimony in support of House Bill 4 today. My name is Robert Graff. I am the Director for Yaskawa America's Education and Workforce Group. I've worked in the public sector / education technology and workforce industry for over 35 years. My primary focus at Yaskawa is developing progressive and sustainable workforce programs for addressing the growing skill gap for Industry 4.0, Robotics and Advanced Automation and career pathway development. I also serve on 15 National and regional Workforce Advisory councils and committee's and am a noted robotics in education blog writer & public speaker.

I would like to share my enthusiasm and outline my support for legislation to prioritize and help streamline Ohio's process for developing, creating new job training certificates and industry-recognized credential programs around Industry 4.0 and Robotics. The educational and industrial base I serve across the country and in Ohio are supporting efforts in this area while creating sustainable Workforce Development models and strategies with a strong emphasis on industrial credentialing, micro-credentialing to further develop and prepare our existing and future workforce.

Ohio is faced with a workforce crisis reflected in research data published around Ohio job / skill gap statistics, and from Yaskawa's Voice of the Customer feedback from our Ohio Industrial and educational partners and customers. Published national statistics routinely show that manufacturers across Ohio are facing real skilled workforce shortages and at the same time, Ohio is considered number two in use of robotics and automation in the nation. High Schools, Career Tech & 2 Year Community colleges are moving away from traditional academic degrees to STEM based certifications, accelerated degrees and career pathway credentialing. Nationally, workforce will need nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs to be filled and the skills gap is expected to result in 2 million of those jobs going unfilled. The Advanced Robotics Manufacturing Institute research shows that there will be a need for almost 90K new jobs in robotics alone by the year 2025 with new jobs and new jobs descriptions that have yet to be defined.

With the passage of HB4 and because of the rapid convergence of Industry 4.0 technologies and the adoption of new robotics technologies (Collaborative, Autonomous, Vision, AI, VR, AR, Big Data, Blockchain) Ohio will have the opportunity to lead the country in Industry 4.0 expertise, training and support. We believe that a key component to the success of HB4 should also be centered around a model for a statewide Educational Curriculum delivery and management platform / system to help manage credentialing for manufacturers and educational institutions in Ohio. With this training model and platform, Ohio manufacturers, education institutions and state agencies will be able to connect, overlay, deliver and utilize a scalable Industry 4.0 training set of tools (from individual learning to manufacturer centric skills sets, NAICS codes, connect data to EMIS, support existing industry certifications to state based agencies wanting to assess training progress, skill ability and tracking multiple micro and industry level credentials) directly into the work environment (lifetime learning). The training model/platform will be able to tie all the relevant agencies together that will need to manage

credentialing and align supporting Ohio agencies, sector partnerships, incumbent workers and K-16 Manufacturing and Automation career pathways.

House Bill 4 will help Manufacturers to establish and create relationships with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) who will serve as a centralized point of contact to communicate their workforce needs to other government agencies and training programs around the state.

House Bill 4, when enacted will enable OWT the task of connecting industry to existing industry-recognized credential and certificate programs, as well as serving as a liaison with ODE and ODHE and relevant Ohio agencies. This will give manufacturers greater input and autonomy for the credential development process and to communicate their industry needs. Yaskawa supports working with ODE and 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. Yaskawa also believes that HB4 will allow Ohio manufacturers to work directly with OWT to ensure the process is as easy as possible.

Yaskawa believes that HB4 will not and should not change the current standards and methods for creating certificate and credential programs and supports OWT as a resource for manufacturers to expedite the process for additional employment training options to the Ohio workforce as efficiently as possible. The benefits to manufacturers are improved access to training, saving time and creating an efficient way for OWT to aid navigating the bureaucracy around IRCs, to provide a voice for the process of generating new credentials, and have an enduring and streamlined partnership with state government on workforce issues.

I urge the bipartisan committee to approve House Bill 4 and allow Ohio companies and educational institutions to do what they do best. Manufacturing, Automation and Industry 4.0 will continue to disrupt and change the Ohio landscape and House Bill 4 will help drive and lead Ohio as the first in the nation if given a skilled workforce as a direct benefit of this bill. Educational instructors, leaders and institutions will adopt best practices create the latest and greatest educational and training programs to creates a pipeline of skilled workers to this companies so that Ohio's unemployment will continue to set records on unemployment rates. I urge you to approve House Bill 4.

Respectfully,



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