
RAMTEC

June 4, 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 today. My name is Ritch Ramey. I recently retired from teaching after having spent the last 38 years in manufacturing and manufacturing education. The last 32 with Tri-Rivers Career Center and Marion Technical College as an engineering technology, certified Yaskawa Motoman Industrial Robotics and Parker Industrial Hydraulics instructor. In 2017 I successfully applied for and gained approval for FANUC and Yaskawa Motoman Industrial Robotics credentials. RAMTEC has successfully certified more than 500 adults, teachers and students in these two industrial credentials. This school year I applied for Parker Industrial Hydraulics, FANUC CNC and FANUC Robotics iRvision.

I am excited to explain the details of my support for legislation to prioritize and help streamline Ohio's process for creating new job training certificates and industry-recognized credential programs. Industry as well as secondary and post-secondary educational institutions are championing the new emphasis on industrial credentialing to further develop and prepare our existing and future workforce.

Ohio is faced with a workforce crisis. There are companies and factories across the state facing skilled workforce shortages. 14 of our 15 graduating Seniors from our Tr-Rivers Career Center's RAMTEC facility in Marion have already earned great career starting jobs as maintenance, robotic and engineering technicians in firms across central Ohio. Companies are no longer looking for communities with tax incentives and inexpensive utilities because they know that will not guarantee them a highly trained and skilled workforce. They look to our program for their hiring solutions because we offer our students more than \$8,000 worth of industrial certification in the Robotics, CAD, Advanced Electronics and Hydraulics.

House Bill 4 will allow businesses to establish 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.

This bill when enacted will enable OWT to perform the task of connecting businesses to existing industry-recognized credential and certificate programs, as well as serving as a liaison with ODE and ODHE. This will give businesses greater input into the credential development process and a straightforward way to communicate their needs. OWT will also serve as a liaison between companies and ODE and ODHE during the creation of new certification and credential programs, and help make the process as easy as possible for businesses to bring new employment opportunities to the Ohio workforce.

I have submitted for industrial credentials before the committee and it is very time consuming to get all the required information from business because they run very lean manufacturing companies, and this can be quite time consuming for them. We have worked with Honda, FT Precision, Whirlpool Corporation, GE Aircraft, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Robotics Industrial Association, Advanced Robotic Manufacturing, FANUC Robotics, Yaskawa Motoman Robotics, US Yachiyo, Crown Equipment Services, Parker Hydraulics, FANUC iRvision and FANUC CNC to get credentialing approved. While many of these businesses currently have to spend valuable time on figuring out the process, this bill will allow them to simply go straight to OWT, who will walk them through the process and make it as easy as possible.

House Bill 4 will not make any changes to the current methods and standards for creating certificate and credentialing programs, but it will enable OWT to be a resource for businesses to expedite the process so we can get more employment training options to the Ohio workforce as efficiently as possible.

I urge the committee to approve House Bill 4 and allow Ohio companies and educational institutions to do what they do best. Manufacturing will continue to lead the action if given a skilled workforce due to 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. Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully,

Ritch Ramey

RAMTEC Coordinator and Engineering Technology Instructor

Tri Rivers Career Center