



Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45

H.B. 386 Testimony
December 11, 2019

Good Afternoon. Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, and fellow members of the Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee; thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill 386, along with my joint sponsor Representative Jim Hoops, which will establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program.

Multiple industries across Ohio relay on commercial trucks and Ohio has a shortage of qualified employees with a CDL license to fill open jobs. House Bill 386 will incentivize individuals to pursue a CDL by providing them a grant and a loan administered by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to help cover the costs. In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements such as clean driving record and have passed a recent drug test. Applicants must be an Ohio resident in order to qualify and must agree to be employed in the state and be a resident of the state of Ohio for a minimum of one year after completing their CDL coursework. The purpose of this requirement is protect the State of Ohio's investment.

Driving around, whether it be in Northwest Ohio, or on my trip down to the Statehouse, there are no shortage of signs or billboards, looking for truck drivers. These jobs are including on the Ohio Means Jobs "In-Demand" jobs listing and there is a lot of our economy which stills relies on the trucking industry.

Being a truck driver is good career with great pay and great benefits and the industry is critical to the success of our economy. The Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program will remove financial barriers which stand in the way of someone obtaining their CDL and help produce qualified candidates to fill jobs the trucking industry badly needs. Thank you for again for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill 386 and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.