



## OHIO TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION

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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Scott Oelslager, Chairman  
House Finance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Oelslager,

On behalf of the Ohio Tire and Automotive Association, I write to express our support for House Bill 2, legislation creating the Ohio TechEd program.

The livelihood of our industry depends on a readily available skilled workforce. In recent years, many of our members have found it increasingly difficult to find technicians with the adequate set of skills necessary to have a successful career in automotive repair. In fact, on several occasions our members have had to delay the openings of new locations because of a lack of available technicians. As a response, our members have taken it upon themselves to invest heavily in the training of new and existing employees. They have invested countless dollars, time, and resources to ensure their workers can meet the demands of their industry and are acclimated to the most up-to-date technology. A career in automotive repair is not only rewarding, but provides a comfortable standard of living for workers. Right now, individuals with minimal training can be hired at a salary of around \$50k and in just a few short years workers can be earning nearly six figures. Our industry has plenty of opportunity for motivated and determined prospective workers. Without the proper training and resources, however; many of these great career opportunities will be unfulfilled.

The provisions outlined in House Bill 2 creating additional financial support for industry-recognized credentials, training reimbursement, and industry sector partnerships will help relieve some of the costs of training for our members while also increasing employment opportunities in the automotive industry.

In closing, House Bill 2 is a much needed tool for Ohio's automotive industry to remain competitive and prosper in today's economy. We applaud the sponsors for bringing forth the legislation and urge support from members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this piece of legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at any time.

Respectfully,

Alex T. Boehnke  
Legislative Director