



**Ohio House Finance
Primary and Secondary Subcommittee
HB166 Interested Party Testimony**

**Testimony of William DiMascio, President
Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools**

Chairmen Cupp and Patterson, and members of the Ohio House Finance, Primary and Secondary Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present interested party testimony for HB166. My name is William DiMascio, and I am the Educational Coordinator for the West Shore Career-Technical District in Lakewood, Ohio. West Shore Career Tech is a Compact Career-Technical Planning District which includes the districts of Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River, and Westlake City School Districts--Lakewood being the lead district. Compacts share delivery and costs through service agreements between multiple school districts. Additionally, I am the current President of the Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools (Ohio CCS). Ohio CCS represents Ohio's 41 Compact and Comprehensive career-technical planning districts in the State of Ohio. Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about the Ohio's career-technical education programs no matter the delivery system.

We appreciate the focus on and priority of career-technical education and workforce development by Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and members of the Ohio General Assembly. Ohio is facing a critical shortage within the skilled trades; as industries modernize and baby boomers retire, we need to focus on training and preparing our students and retraining those already in workforce to fill these in-demand jobs. To fulfill this need and realize the full potential of Ohio's nationally renowned career-technical education (CTE) system it is imperative funding be adequately maintained.

In order to advance and expand career and technical education (CTE) opportunities in Ohio for students statewide, career-tech representatives from JVSDs, Comprehensives and Compacts, as well as other education stakeholders, served on the work group convened by the co-chairs of this committee to review the state's school funding formula and submit recommendations for improvement. After a thorough review, CTE representatives submitted the following primary recommendations: maintain base aid for JVSDs, comprehensives and compacts; maintain career-technical education

“weighted” funding outside the cap/guarantee; establish state programs to secure innovative approaches to career exploration; expand options for Ohioans without a high school diploma.

In addition to those recommendations, we appreciate and support the provisions of the As Introduced version of the budget which provide expanded reimbursement to cover the cost of the Industry-Recognized Credentials (Line Item 200478) and the continued funding of Career-Technical Enhancements (Line Item 200545); items such as the aforementioned allow us to provide high quality career-technical education to Ohio’s students.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony for HB166; if I can be a resource to the committee regarding career-technical education, please do not hesitate to reach-out.