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### **Senate Bill 109 Workforce Scholarship Program Sponsor Testimony:**

Thank you Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Skyes and members of the Finance committee, for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 109.

SB 109 is designed to align a student's post-secondary coursework with Ohio's in-demand jobs. There are many instances in our state where employers need educated and trained workers but can't find them. There's also an abundance of evidence that many of Ohio's college graduates cannot find a job in the field from which they received their degrees. SB 109 seeks to rectify this by offering a Workforce Scholarship Program that incentivizes students to pursue the coursework that will lead to an in-demand job.

Some of the features of the bill are as follows:

- Establishes a two year pilot program for five public or private higher education institutions including adult technical education.
- A scholarship of up to \$5,000 will be available to students who take the courses that will lead to an in-demand job.
- It requires that the students spend 30-90 days in a workplace setting of the in-demand job that the student is seeking.

- It authorizes a 10% tax credit on the student's loan repayments.
- Authorizes a 10% tax credit for wages paid by an employer who hired the student for an in-demand job.

In closing Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, SB 109 will help to keep students in our state by aligning them with one of our many in-demand jobs. It will also fill the worker gap that is preventing many Ohio businesses from maximizing their growth potential and improving our overall economy.

Thank you again for allowing me to give sponsor testimony. At this time I would be glad to entertain any questions you may have.