



FINANCE COMMITTEE

WITNESS FORM

COMMITTEE DATE: 5/23/19

NAME: Keri Gossard

ADDRESS: 4326 Vista Walk Lane
Powell, OH. 43065

TELEPHONE: 740-513-6439

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING: First Impressions Dental Assisting
Program

TESTIFYING ON BILL NUMBER: Sub. H.B. 166

TESTIMONY TYPE: - SELECT - Written

TESTIFYING AS: INTERESTED PARTY

FOR BUDGET TESTIMONY ONLY:

TESTIMONY TOPIC: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIFYING ON BUDGET ITEM(S): OhioMeansJobs Workforce Development Revolv

DID YOU TESTIFY IN A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE? NO

ARE YOU A REGISTERED LOBBYIST? - SELECT - No

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- SUBMIT -

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website.



FIRST IMPRESSIONS
DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM

740.513.6439

POWELL SCHOOL
8 N. Liberty Street
Suite 200
Powell, OH 43065

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL
505 Wooster Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

LANCASTER SCHOOL
166 W. Main Street
Unit 202
Lancaster, OH 43130

CANTON SCHOOL
4565 Dressler Road NW
Unit 101
Canton, OH 44718

May 21, 2019

Dear Chairman Dolan and Committee Members,

The Revolving Workforce Development Loan has made a significant impact on First Impressions Dental Assisting Students, staff, and our Industry partners. Without the loan program to bridge the financial gap, approximately forty-five to fifty percent of our students simply would not be able to attend. Our students include single moms, stay-at-home moms returning to the workforce, individuals that cannot afford to attend a four year institution, those who do not thrive in a conventional classroom setting, as well as numerous other deserving people.

First Impressions is a small business that invests in our students, our staff, and our community. As far as our students are concerned, we have a 99% completion rate, and a 92% placement rate. We have consistently held our competitive rates for the last five years. Our staff are compensated well and have access to growth opportunities as well as continuing education. They invest in our students whole heartedly with their time and expertise. We also have an excellent relationship with our local Dentists. We have a job board full of dentists looking specifically for First Impressions Dental Assisting graduates. There is a high demand for qualified dental assistants in the state of Ohio. Our industry partners consistently compliment the clinical skills and professionalism of our graduates. First Impressions also does a community outreach project each session. In December, we collected and donated 622 pounds of food to the food bank of Delaware, Ohio. One pound of food translates into one meal. The Workforce Development Loan makes all of these things possible.

As an educational institution, we often throw around numbers and percentages to prove our worth. I wish that instead, you could meet the real humans that are being greatly influenced as a result of these loan funds. I would like to close with the personal story of one of our students who is finishing up her education at First Impressions. Her name is Alexis. Alexis is smart and vibrant. She is an energetic, kind, caregiver that has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. She has a passion for people and has the desire to work as a dental assistant for underprivileged children or maybe even in a prison. She has been on three interviews and has received job offers at all three. If it weren't for the Workforce Development Loan, she wouldn't have been able to take this program. Please consider restoring the funding back to the loan program to continue benefiting small businesses, individuals like Alexis, and industry partners in the State of Ohio.

Thank you,

Keri Gossard

Keri Gossard

Director of First Impressions Dental Assisting Program