



FINANCE COMMITTEE

WITNESS FORM

COMMITTEE DATE: 5/23/19

NAME: Kimberly Klohe

ADDRESS: 7450 Union Shelby Rd. Piqua, OH 45356

TELEPHONE: 937-778-3796

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING: Drivers Edge CDL Training Academy

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

TESTIMONY TYPE: 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? NO

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Keep the RLF going to continue to help our students.

- SUBMIT -

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

Drivers Edge CDL Training Academy

7450 Union Shelby Rd., Piqua, Ohio, 45356, 937-778-3796

May 20, 2019

Dear Sarah Totodo:

My name is Kimberly Klohe. I am the owner of Drivers Edge CDL Training Academy. We train our students in Class A CDL which is the 2nd highest in demand field in Ohio. The need for truck drivers is astronomical. There is a shortage of almost 2000 drivers in Ohio alone and over 100,000 nation-wide.

The revolving loan fund is a great program that helps a tremendous number of students that without it would not be able to attend. The NEED for the RLF is not only for our school, but for the students who attend here. Our students want to become CDL drivers for the financial stability it brings for them and to their families. We have been able to help in this last year an additional 50 students in obtaining their CDL. That number might not sound like a lot, but it is when you multiply times all the schools that use the RLF to help people.

The revolving loan fund is a very important program to assist students in obtaining a certificate in a high in demand field. There are no other programs available, except through the Job and Family Service (WIOA). This is based on the household income and majority of students don't qualify for it. Student's can't get a bank loan because of credit scores, un-employment, and other criteria they must qualify for. The RLF helps fill the huge gap that there is in funding to help these students. When students obtain their CDL and start their new driving job, most of the truck companies will offer them tuition reimbursement so that helps get the loans paid back.

We have had a lot of students that have come from bad situations in life. They have had nothing but hard times financially and couldn't seem to catch a break. The RLF helped these students come to our school, obtain a good paying - job. I could give you example after example of the stories I have heard, the tears of joy I have seen, and the hugs I and my instructor's have received because we have help change a person's life, a family's life. We help change people lives. I won't give you the student's name, but I will tell you his story. This person was down on his luck, down on his-self and didn't know if he could accomplish the goal of getting his CDL. He had 3 little girls and he was living paycheck to paycheck. When he came into the school to speak with me, as he set with me at my desk, he had tears in his eyes. He brought his little girls with him because he couldn't afford to pay a sitter. The truck he was driving looked and sounded like it was about to fall apart. I could tell he desperately needed our help. He was one of the first in his class to pass his state exam and is now working locally for a trucking

company and making over \$1000 per week income. He stops in from time to time to let us know how he and his family are doing and to show his gratitude for helping get him through it. He used the RLF program and without the RLF this would NOT be possible.

I hope this letter shows how very important the Revolving Loan Program is and how it helps everyone involved in it. Please don't reduce the funding or take it away. It is nice that we can offer it and be able to help so many that need it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Klohe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kimberly Klohe, Owner