



October 8, 2019

The Honorable Matt Dolan
Chairman, Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Senate Bill 109 Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Dolan:

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of Senate Bill 109; legislation that would create the Workforce Scholarship Program.

Consistently, we hear from our members that they are struggling to fill workforce shortages, as well as find qualified, skilled employees for the openings that they have. We believe that SB 109 has the potential to fill vacancies that exist right now for jobs that are deemed in-demand. This bill also can mitigate the burden student loans are putting on individuals pursuing post-secondary education.

One concern our members did express was the portion of the bill that ties the program to jobs that are in-demand. More specifically, our members would like to see some potential flexibility there or have the in-demand jobs list be more regionally focused to where the students are attending school at the time.

Overall, we do support SB 109 and the new program it would create in an effort to solve the issues facing our employers as it relates to workforce development. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support at kboehner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,


Kevin Boehner
Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy