

**Columbus Office:**  
Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-6041  
Fax: (614) 719-6956  
Rep06@OhioHouse.gov  
www.ohiohouse.gov



**Committees:**  
Primary & Secondary  
Education, Ranking  
Public Utilities  
Ways & Means

**Special Appointments:**  
Joint Education Oversight  
Committee

**Phillip M. Robinson Jr.**  
**State Representative**  
**Ohio House District 6**

**House Bill 4 Sponsor Testimony**  
**Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee**  
**September 17, 2019**

---

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 4. My joint sponsor, Representative Richardson, and I look forward to productive conversations with the committee and all related stakeholders.

The goal of HB 4 is simple, to help streamline the process for businesses in developing industry-recognized credential and certificate programs for specialized jobs they need to fill. HB 4 does this by setting up the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) as the "one-stop-shop" and potential first point of contact and resource for employers and companies by helping them to:

- 1) Be connected to existing certificate or credential programs for current or new potential employees,
- 2) Vet proposals and get guidance on how to work with schools, colleges, and state education agencies to develop programs,
- 3) And help make the process quick and efficient.

Right now businesses have the problem of trying to navigate an unclear process to fill their specialized positions that need credentials or certification. "When do they talk to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) over the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and who do they contact there? Or do they reach out to the closest community college for help? Are their nearby career centers that can help, can they create programs? Etc."

Especially for small businesses that have fewer resources, there are a lot of questions but no clear place to go for answers. Rather than a business wasting time on figuring out the process, HB 4 resolves this by having them simply go straight to OWT who will walk them through the process and make it as easy as possible. It will not change the current standards and methods for creating certificate and credential programs, instead codify into law OWT as a resource for businesses.

So what are some examples of businesses that could utilize OWT as a resource?

**6<sup>th</sup> House District:** Southeast Cuyahoga County  
Bentleyville – Brecksville – Broadview Heights – Chagrin Falls - Chagrin Falls Township – Gates Mills –  
Glenwillow – Highland Heights – Hunting Valley – Independence – Lyndhurst – Mayfield Village – Moreland Hills  
– Oakwood – Seven Hills – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills

Printed in house.

**Columbus Office:**

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-6041  
Fax: (614) 719-6956  
Rep06@OhioHouse.gov  
www.ohiohouse.gov



**Committees:**

Primary & Secondary  
Education, Ranking  
Public Utilities  
Ways & Means

**Special Appointments:**

Joint Education Oversight  
Committee

**Phillip M. Robinson Jr.**  
**State Representative**  
**Ohio House District 6**

I recently heard the story of a tire and auto parts repair retailer who was setting up shop in Ohio. They needed to hire technicians with proper certification to work on their client's cars. These technician positions are good paying jobs, ranging from \$50,000 to up to \$80,000 a year sometimes. Because each car brand has mechanical and technical differences, specialized training is needed so they can work on a variety of vehicles. But this was a new small business that didn't know how to navigate the process, so they had to struggle on their own to find where they could send workers to be trained, figure out if job training programs needed to be created in their area, or if they could work with a school to make the programs they needed. They had to delay their grand opening because they didn't have any technicians, no one to do the work! This cost them time, money, and even risked sinking their business before it started.

Other examples could include a tech company is moving to the state and they want to have employees trained in specific computer coding or a new program. Or a car company is creating a new electric or autonomous vehicle and need employees trained in special manufacturing and development methods. The sky is the limit in terms of what employers can have in training needs.

The beneficiaries of HB 4 would be numerous:

- Both high school graduates looking for skilled trades jobs, or college graduates looking for higher or specialized training in their field; can benefit and gain access to better paying jobs through these programs.
- Both the incumbent workforce, and unemployed job seekers can gain improved or new career opportunities.
- Both current employers in the state, and new businesses attracted to Ohio because of HB 4. Businesses will be able to start new operations and hire more people quicker with more confidence in the process.

This leads us to why we need to help businesses in this process. We need **more high paying job opportunities** for hard-working Ohioans, and we need to **help businesses create these jobs** in order to fulfill the Ohio promise of a better life. While affordable access to college is important for our children's future, workforce training and certification are equally important ways for Ohioans to live their American dream. HB 4 will help expand workforce development options for people looking to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Like many African Americans, both my parents' families came to Ohio from the South looking for opportunity, and stayed for the community. As the son of two hardworking

**6<sup>th</sup> House District:** Southeast Cuyahoga County

Bentleyville – Brecksville – Broadview Heights – Chagrin Falls - Chagrin Falls Township – Gates Mills – Glenwillow – Highland Heights – Hunting Valley – Independence – Lyndhurst – Mayfield Village – Moreland Hills – Oakwood – Seven Hills – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills

Printed in house.

**Columbus Office:**

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-6041  
Fax: (614) 719-6956  
Rep06@OhioHouse.gov  
www.ohiohouse.gov



**Committees:**

Primary & Secondary  
Education, Ranking  
Public Utilities  
Ways & Means

**Special Appointments:**

Joint Education Oversight  
Committee

**Phillip M. Robinson Jr.**  
**State Representative**  
**Ohio House District 6**

entrepreneurs, I had the benefit of seeing the fulfillment of the Ohio promise of the American dream first hand. People came to Ohio for better jobs, education, and a better life, and so their family and children could grow up and thrive in these new opportunities. But there are currently roadblocks that are hindering the prospect of a better life in Ohio. HB 4 tears down one of these roadblocks, and opens the path to opportunity.

Ohioans don't want a hand out, they want a leg up. A great way to achieve this is through training options for better paying jobs and careers. HB 4 will give current workers and recent graduates the ability to succeed and restore Ohio's promise, and know that if you work hard with the right support and equal opportunity, you can make a better life for yourself and family, and achieve the American dream.

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the committee, we thank you for your time and Representative Richardson and I are happy to answer any questions you have.

**6<sup>th</sup> House District:** Southeast Cuyahoga County

Bentleyville – Brecksville – Broadview Heights – Chagrin Falls - Chagrin Falls Township – Gates Mills –  
Glenwillow – Highland Heights – Hunting Valley – Independence – Lyndhurst – Mayfield Village – Moreland Hills  
– Oakwood – Seven Hills – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills

**Printed in house.**