



Ohio House of Representatives
Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee
HB 551, Minors in Hazardous Occupations

Interested Party Testimony of Joyce L. Malainy, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Career and Technology Centers of Licking County

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Chairman Young, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony today. My name is Joyce Malainy and I am the superintendent of the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County. I submit this testimony on behalf of my students, staff, the Ohio Association of Career and Technical Education (Ohio ACTE) and the Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents (OACTS).

For close to 50 years, Ohio law has allowed Career Technical Education (“CTE”) schools in Ohio to provide training for a skilled workforce, including training for the employment of minors. While the economy continues to grow, many are looking for ways to increase the number of skilled employees—but as this occurs, the state often forgets about the role of CTE and the value it provides. We are all very much aware that there is higher demand for skilled employees than the actual pool, and there have been and continue to be many proposals/attempts to increase the number of pathways for obtaining necessary skills. However, if we as a State simultaneously focused our efforts in touting the value and importance of CTE, our career-tech programs could be filled to capacity, which would undoubtedly increase the quality and skill of our workforce.

HB 551 seems to be a worthwhile attempt to help the manufacturing and construction based industries employ 16 and 17 year olds with requisite training. As Career Technical Education Professionals, we have continually provided 16 and 17 year-olds the skills they need to be successful. Approved CTE programs, where applicable, provide OSHA training, teach students safe operation of specific tools related to industry, and in general, help students understand the safety and health hazards of the workplace. Yet often, manufacturers are unwilling (or unable due to insurance issues) to hire students before the age of 18. Therefore, in that respect, we are in favor of HB 551. However, we urge this committee to consider including language in the bill that also encourages training in approved CTE programs, recognizing CTE as another allowable option for minors to engage in workplace activities.