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Sponsor Testimony on HB 98

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee, today I offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 98, the Ohio High School Career Opportunity Act.

Currently, there is no standard to ensure that Ohio's high school students have access to recruiters to learn about career opportunities available after graduation. HB 98 provides representatives from the armed forces, skilled trades, institutions of higher education, business, industry, and charitable institutions the chance to present information to high school students about career options within their organization.

There are many valid reasons why continuing one's education after graduating from high school may not be the best option for someone. If that person has information on other pathways that will lead to productive and lucrative careers in the construction trades, health care, technology, or transportation, it could have a significant impact on their ability to achieve success.

Poor access to career information coupled with a growing number of unfulfilled jobs in Ohio's skilled labor force has a negative impact on Ohio's economy. By enacting HB 98 we will be able to provide students with additional career opportunities and fill job vacancies as the need for skilled employees grows.

For these reasons, I urge all of you to support House Bill 98 and would welcome any questions at this time.

Ohio House of Representatives

