



Who: Vince Squillace, Ohio Home Builders Association (OHBA)

Date: March 21, 2018

Re: *OHBA Testimony In Support of Substitute HB 512*

Chairman Blessing and Members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee,

The OHBA is proud to support substitute HB 512, particularly the section separating line items between pre-higher Ed and workforce development.

As you may know, workforce development is a topic high on our industry list of concerns along with many other industries. Clearly, the lack of skilled trades is negatively impacting the housing construction industry; simply, there are not enough in the trades to meet expected demand.

The bill will rightfully put workforce development alongside the rightful pursuits of our educational priorities. As it appears, housing construction will begin to rise, and it would be shameful if the state cannot, or does not, meet affordable housing needs of our citizens due to continuing shortages in the labor supply. It is the right choice to emphasize the need to encourage more training in the schools to meet the needs of the construction workforce needs in the future.

Training our work force should stand alongside other academic priorities, as many benefits accrue to the state and the students who should have a choice of career possibilities.

The members of the Ohio Home Builders unanimously support any and all efforts to stimulate workforce development in the construction trades in our school system.