



Pickaway-Ross

Career & Technology Center

Adult Education

**Ohio House of Representatives  
Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee**

March 7, 2018

HB 166 / Proponent Testimony

Testimony by Carrie Fife, Director of Adult Education, Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center

Chairman Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Ohio House Higher Education Committee, my name is Carrie Fife and I am here to speak in favor of Sub. HB 166.



Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center (PRCTC) has been providing adult services and training to the community since 1976. After 42 years, our offerings are still responsive to the needs of the individuals in the community and the area businesses. When accessing critical services in the Pickaway and Ross County area, you will encounter our past students.

As an Ohio Technical Center (OTC), our graduates will...

- Draw your blood (Phlebotomist)
- Perform your EKG (EKG Technician)
- Arrive in a squad if you call 911 (EMT Paramedic)
- Come investigate if you have a gas leak (Firefighter)
- Make sure your child's prescription is correct (Pharmacy Technician)
- Show up in the middle of an ice storm to get your power back on (Power Lineman)
- Bathe, clothe, and feed your loved one at in a nursing home (Nurse's Aide)
- Fix your AC when it's 90 degrees outside (HVAC Technician)
- Check your vitals, listen to your symptoms, and assist your family doctor (Medical Assistant)
- Run wiring for your house (Electrician)
- Put new breaks on your car (Auto Mechanic)
- Call for the doctor when your loved one is in pain (Practical Nurse)

All of these programs at our OTC are fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education which is an approved post-secondary accreditor per the U.S. Department of Education. Through the accreditation process, we must meet over 270 standards and criteria of accreditation every day. This accreditation allows us to offer Pell grants and student loans. As you know, we are also accountable to the Ohio Department of Higher Education and still in some scenarios the Ohio Department of Education.

Many of the types of programs listed above require additional program accreditation or oversight. Examples are the Ohio Board of Nursing for LPN, the Ohio Department of Public Safety for EMS and Fire, the Ohio Department of Health for Nurse's Aide, etc. We also intentionally pursue additional program accreditations such as the American Society for Health-System Pharmacists. This strengthens our offerings for the public and ensures our pharmacy technicians receive training based on the most up to date safety standards possible.

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Our OTC has been involved in and used grants over the years to collaborate and partner with other organizations, schools, and businesses. These grants have allowed us to expand in new areas, gain important knowledge, and better serve our community. We have been the lead institution on grants such as the Ohio Skills Bank, Knowledge Works Foundation’s Healthcare Career Pathways (through the Governor’s Workforce Policy Board), the Adult Diploma Program pilot in Southeast Ohio, Stackable Certificates, Motorcycle Ohio, and many WIA/WIOA and TANF grants.

The Governor and Legislators have shown a commitment to increasing the skills of the workforce by the availability of grant funding for students and other special purposes. The majority of the time though, these are designated for “Institutions of Higher Education”. OTCs are a part of the University Systems of Ohio and fall under the Ohio Department of Higher Education, but within Ohio Revised Code, we are not defined as an Institution of Higher Education and therefore do not qualify.

The RAPIDS grant is a good example of the type of grant an OTC would have the capacity to lead but yet OTCs are excluded as a lead applicant. This forces the OTCs to follow whatever initiative the college partner wants to pursue, which may or may not be a good fit. This is only one example of many in which more opportunities are available but OTCs and our students are left out. This puts our schools more and more at risk of not being able to continue to provide these essential training programs.

The OTCs must meet standards and criteria dictated by the U.S. Department of Education and many different state oversight entities and program accreditors. We are held accountable to the same campus violence and cyber security requirements as The Ohio State University. We ask that you look favorably on Sub. HB 166 and ensure that we too are defined within Ohio Revised Code as an Institution of Higher Education.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.