



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Testimony of Karen Bryer
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Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Ohio Senate Education Committee
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Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 98, which passed the Ohio House without opposition. My name is Karen Bryer, Director of Talent Acquisition at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

One of the nation's leading academic medical centers, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center offers healthcare services in virtually every specialty and subspecialty in medicine. Thousands of patients come to us each month for treatments and services they cannot find anywhere else. Providing access to healthcare information is core to our research, education and patient care mission. At Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center, we're dedicated to creating the future of medicine to improve people's lives.

Three years ago I had the opportunity to participate on a panel at the Columbus Metropolitan Club that focused on work opportunities for individuals in different trades. At that time, and still true today, I had noted that we had many skilled trade vacancies but the candidate pool continues to decrease.

These positions include jobs such as plumbers, HVAC technicians, and facilities technician. These positions offer a competitive starting wage, and as an employee of OSU Wexner Medical Center you also have outstanding benefits including tuition reimbursement to Ohio State.

These positions and many others also give students an entry into a workplace which could lead to advancement and further educational opportunities, should that be of interest.

I learned that Representative Duffey heard the panel discussion and was moved to try to act on this challenge. I appreciate that HB 98 is a result of that effort and am here to offer my, and OSU Wexner Medical Center's, support for this legislation.

Not every student is ready for college upon graduation. Some may never find that to be their path. Knowing that there are good employment opportunities that don't require a college education is important for these students to understand. Learning about these opportunities as early as middle school can help give such students a vision for the future, a reason to stay in school and to perform well enough to pass the required tests, graduate and seek out one of these positions.

For these students, we need to focus on career readiness and not just college readiness. But these students too often lack awareness of these opportunities.

HB 98 would help organizations like OSU Wexner Medical Center to spread the word about these types of opportunities by:

- **Prohibiting school district boards from imposing restrictions on the presentation of career information to students** by representatives of skilled trades that are not uniformly imposed on representatives of business, industry, charitable institutions, institutions of higher education, armed forces, and other employers.
- **Requiring each district board to provide the representative of any entity described above with at least two opportunities per school year to present information in person to all high school students individually or in a group setting; and**
- **Permitting district boards to develop an application process for entities that wish to access school property for the purpose of presenting information to students.**

It is for these reasons that I encourage the members of the Senate Education Committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.