



OHIO

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Peggy Lehner
Chair, Ohio Senate Education Committee
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Lehner:

I am writing on behalf of our 23,000 governing members of the National Federation of Independent Business to lend our support for House Bill 98. We view this bill as an excellent opportunity to provide high school students with an awareness of employment opportunities they may not otherwise know exist. By way of background, our typical member employs 25 or fewer. All members come from all industry sectors and all 88 Ohio counties. Our members serve their communities in various capacities including local school boards.

We frequently hear our members concerns' regarding available and interested workers to fill open positions. Providing a forum, at least twice a year, for our members to raise awareness of opportunities available to students in their local areas will foster a dialogue and help build relationships. These employers are experiencing an unmet workforce need, pay solid wages, offer benefits, and afford an opportunity to a career path outside of a college or university track.

House Bill 98 simply grants employers the opportunity to open a dialogue with high school students. Currently, there exists no right for them to do so unless granted by individual schools or school districts. House Bill 98 will remedy this situation by granting a specific allowance for employers to provide information to students. Importantly, school districts will still manage the format and dissemination of information to their students.

Ohio's own Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation mission statement "is to grow Ohio's economy by developing a skilled workforce, promoting effective training programs, and connecting Ohio employers with qualified workers." House Bill 98 certainly aligns with the goal of this important entity.

NFIB/Ohio supports the opportunity for employers to provide additional opportunities for high school students to pursue entry into the workforce and find meaningful career paths. We encourage favorable recommendation of House Bill 98.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Ferruso
Legislative Director

cc: Representatives Kristin Boggs & Mike Duffey

National Federation of Independent Business — OHIO

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