

# Columbus Building Trades Council

www.ColumbusConstruction.org

Rep. Peggy Lehner  
Chairman, Senate Education Committee  
77 S. High Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: HB 98

Dear Chairman Lehner / Vice Chair Hoffman / Ranking Member Sykes:

My name is Dorsey Hager and I am the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council. The "Columbus Building Trades" represents 18,000 highly skilled tradesmen and women in Columbus and Central Ohio.

I respectfully stand before you today to offer my support for HOUSE BILL 98. With the passage of HOUSE BILL 98, more students throughout our great state will be given the opportunity to be exposed to careers in the building trades industry.

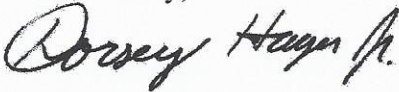
The Columbus Building Trades has led and will continue to lead the charge to expand the number of men and women in the skilled trades. Plumbers, Electricians, Sheet Metal Workers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Laborers, Carpenters, Operating Engineers, Mechanical Insulators, and other building trades' members earn good wages with health and retire benefits so that they may provide a solid middle class living for their families and when their career is over – retire comfortably with dignity and respect and without being a burden to state and local governments or the taxpayer.

Apprenticeship is the portal into our local unions and the beginning of the direct path to the middle class. All of our registered apprenticeship programs have reciprocity agreements with local colleges ensuring that apprentices earn college credits – ALL TUITION FREE! Not only are our apprentices on the path to the middle class, but they are also on a path toward a college degree.

A career in the skilled trades is not an alternative to college but another option that provides a career in a growing industry with jobs that CANNOT be outsourced. As the baby boomers retire, and business locate to Ohio, as our own business expand and the economy continues to grow – the career opportunities in the skilled trades has never been greater.

I urge you to consider passage of this bill to ensure that all students in the state of Ohio receive the exposure necessary to keep their career options open.

Sincerely,



Dorsey Hager, Jr.  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer