



**Senate Education Committee
Interested Party Testimony
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
February 28, 2018**

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and members of the Committee. My name is Barbara Shaner, Advocacy Specialist for the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO). Joining me today for this testimony and in answering your questions are Jay Smith, Deputy Director of Legislative Services for the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and Thomas Ash, Director of Governmental Relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as interested parties on House Bill (HB) 98.

Our three organizations represent public school district boards of education, superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers, and other school business officials from around the state. Our members will be responsible for seeing that the provisions contained in HB 98 are implemented.

HB 98 adds representatives from the skilled trades and career-technical education providers to the list of entities for which boards of education are required to practice uniformity in allowing the presentation of career information to students. Current law lists business, industry, charitable institutions, institutions of higher education, the Armed Forces, and other employers.

Our organizations understand and support the need for uniformity of access for these groups. It is in students' interest to understand the career options available to them. No one option is appropriate for all students, and a skilled trade or a career-technical program may be a very viable option for some students.

However, according to the Legislative Service Commission, "HB 98 requires 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." This is a new requirement, even for those groups listed under current law.

Our organizations have discussed concerns about this provision in the bill with the bill sponsor. We urge the committee to consider the following:

1. The bill appears to require that districts proactively provide two opportunities for access to students each year. We urge the committee to change this provision to clarify that this requirement is only mandated when the entities listed in statute request an opportunity, as under current law.

Our organizations generally oppose the enactment of new state mandates for schools. While the bill permits districts to develop an application process for entities that wish to access school property for the purpose of presenting information to students, we are concerned that the bill's requirement for "at least two opportunities" for access by all these groups, adds greatly to the extensive list of requirements schools must comply with every year.

2. We request that the bill be amended to require "at least one" opportunity (when requested) for the groups listed in statute to have access to students for purposes of presenting career information.

Thank you for considering these changes to HB 98. This concludes our testimony. We will be happy to address your questions.