



The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2018

Senate Education Committee

House Bill 98 – Proponent – Written Testimony

Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Becky Higgins and I am the President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). On behalf of the 125,000 educators that make up the OEA, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony as a **Proponent** of House Bill 98 (R-Duffy/D-Boggs).

HB 98 adds representatives from the skilled trades and technical careers to the list of entities for which boards of education are required to practice uniformity in presenting career information to students. It is critical that students receive a full range of information about how their academic instruction in public schools can be linked with the training and development of skills that will result in good-paying jobs in Ohio's diverse economy.

Providing students with a better understanding of career options beyond the traditional college route is increasingly important. This is especially true for the diverse opportunities that are available to pursue a profession as skilled construction craftsmen and women in the building trades.

Expanding outreach to students about career opportunities in the skilled trades also supports efforts by public school educators to increase student participation in high-quality career-technical and joint vocational school district programs across the state.

For the above reasons, OEA strongly supports passage of House Bill 98.

Thank you for your consideration.

