

**Ohio House Finance Committee**  
**Written Testimony - Ohio House Bill 670**  
**Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr., President, Lakeland Community College**  
**June 3, 2020**

Thank you, Co-Chair Callender, Co-Chair Oelslager, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee for this opportunity to submit written testimony on Ohio House Bill 670. My name is Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr. and I am proud to serve as president of Lakeland Community College, especially as a lifelong resident of Lake County, Ohio and a Lakeland graduate.

Founded in 1967 as the first college in Ohio created by a vote of the people, Lakeland serves more than 10,000 Northeast Ohio students annually and provides essential job training to support local businesses and manufacturers. As a community college, Lakeland serves a disproportionate number of low-income families and first-generation students seeking to earn a college degree to get good paying jobs and improve their lives.

*Lakeland is tremendously grateful for the State's investment in its infrastructure, which allows us to maintain operations and provide programs that support economic development.*

*I respectfully request that the following capital reappropriation requests of Lakeland Community College be included in House Bill 670:*

*From the Higher Education Improvement Fund*

		<i>Reappropriations</i>
C37900	<i>Basic Renovations</i>	\$ 270,240
C37911	<i>Workforce Based Training and Equipment</i>	\$ 208,128
C37913	<i>Roadway, Parking &amp; Sidewalk Renovation</i>	\$ 306,353
C37918	<i>Welding Laboratory Program Expansion</i>	\$ 417,330
C37919	<i>Engineering Building Renovations</i>	\$ 4,000,000
C37920	<i>Student Success Center</i>	\$ 379,265

As these capital funds are well underway and critical to support workforce development, I am asking for the balance of our original request to be reappropriated in House Bill 670. All funds are expected to be spent in FY2021.

Due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and resulting state budget cuts, we understand the desire to further substantiate the need for previously approved capital projects. In fact, the current economic situation is what drives our continued critical need for these funds.

Northeast Ohio manufacturers, such as STERIS, Lubrizol, Lincoln Electric, Parker, and the Alliance for Working Together manufacturers, rely on Lakeland to prepare graduates with hands-on training using the latest equipment, so they are job-ready to get Ohio working again.

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Morris W. Beverage Jr., EDM

Kindly note that the substantial majority of our reappropriations request is designated to complete our Engineering Building Renovation Project and Welding Lab Program Expansion Project to support workforce programs in Welding, Computer Integrated Manufacturing Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology, and Mechanical Engineering Technology. Many of these funds have already been spent or are in the process of being encumbered. Construction of the College's Welding Lab Program Expansion Project was completed January 1, 2020, increasing capacity from 16 to 36 welding stations, and providing additional lab space for group instruction, cutting, storage and safety. What remains open is to finalize remaining equipment buys with updated information from our local welding advisory committee. Additionally, last month the College submitted a request for the purchase of critical applied manufacturing equipment to the Controlling Board for its review, and a hopeful decision to approve, at its June 15, 2020 meeting. This comprehensive equipment purchase request includes, but is not limited to, CNC machining centers, press brake, faro arm, and mechatronics process automation systems.

Manufacturing and industrial occupations represent a significant component of Ohio and Northeastern Ohio employment. There are more than 500 manufacturing facilities in Lake County, one of the highest concentrations in the state. Manufacturing represents over 20% of the workforce in our county. Lake County experienced a 12.5% increase in the number of manufacturing paid employees from 2011-2015, far surpassing what occurred nationally (5.7%) and in Ohio (8.1%) according to the U.S. Census. It is critical to the local economy and the State of Ohio that Lakeland be well-positioned to recruit and train the workforce to fill these jobs in manufacturing and engineering.

In conclusion, Lakeland respectfully asks this committee to include our requested reappropriations in House Bill 670, so we may continue to prepare students with the up-to-date training and skills needed to support local manufacturers and Ohio's workforce development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Morris W. Beverage Jr., EDM  
President

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