



OMACCS
OHIO-MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF
CAREER COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

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***Ohio House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
HB 222***

Testimony of Kent Trofholz

Executive Director, Ohio-Michigan Association of Career Colleges and Schools

October 15, 2019

Chairman Merrin and members of the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Kent Trofholz, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio-Michigan Association of Career Colleges and Schools (OMACCS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB222, which authorizes an income tax credit for an employer's expenses to train a commercial vehicle operator.

OMACCS applauds the introduction of bills designed to increase the number of Ohioans who work in the trucking and heavy equipment industries. These bills are intended to make it easier, especially for young people, to obtain their Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

As you know, member schools of the Ohio-Michigan Association of Career Colleges and Schools have been providing CDL training for several decades. Doris Young, owner and operator of the Great Lakes Truck Driving School, has been in the truck driving industry for over 30 years; Fortis College in Cuyahoga Falls has been in operation for almost 50 years while offering a CDL training program for the past three years, and Daymar College's Columbus Campus is in the process of introducing a CDL program for the Central Ohio market. Our Association also supports our newest CDL member, Driver's Edge CDL Training Academy in Piqua, Ohio. All of the aforementioned schools work closely with Ohio employers and boast nearly 100% job placement rates. Demand for CDL trained drivers routinely outnumber available prospective employees.

HB222, when enacted, will undoubtedly address the shortage Ohio employers are experiencing for trained CDL drivers. HB222 is a part of a comprehensive effort to address current challenges facing Ohio businesses. HB222 is one piece of addressing the known problems in our State's growing economy. The Ohio-Michigan Association of Career Colleges and Schools strongly support these measures and encourages the members of this committee to do the same.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing support for the students of our schools, our Association and sector of higher education. Any questions you may have can be directed to my attention at ktrofholz@omaccs.org.