

Ohio Senate Education Committee
SB 89 Proponent Testimony
(Licensure Provisions)

Testimony of Nancy Luce, Superintendent, Upper Valley Career Center
(Miami County, OH)

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Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony today on SB 89. My name is Dr. Nancy Luce, and I am the Superintendent of Upper Valley Career Center, located in Miami County, OH—a position I have held for 11 years. I am here representing the Ohio Association of Career and Technical Superintendents (OACTS) and the Ohio Association of Career and Technical Education (Ohio ACTE). My testimony will focus on the licensure provisions contained in SB 89, which address three important issues unique to career and technical education.

Substitute Teacher Licensure (pp.38-39; Lines 1097-1101)

As is the case with our K-12 colleagues, career-technical schools face difficulties finding substitute teachers to cover classrooms. Our common goal is to identify qualified individuals that will enable instruction to continue in both our academic and career-technical classes. Coverage for career and technical classes is an especially unique challenge due to the technical nature of the skill training involved. Adding to this challenge are the constraints created by current law / policy. It should be noted that the recent elimination of the short term and long term career-tech substitute categories by SB 216 did increase our flexibility to some degree. However, the major barrier we continue to face is that current law / policy allows individuals with a Career Tech Workforce Development substitute teaching license to only sub in the specific field listed on his/her license.

Let me provide a scenario. Under current law, an individual with any bachelor's degree (or higher) can sub for a semester in any classroom. What this means is that someone who has a bachelor's degree in political science is legally able to sub for a semester in a welding, automotive or other career-tech course. However, someone who is licensed as a career-technical workforce development sub in the area of precision machining (for example), and who has a long career as a machinist, would only be qualified to substitute teach precision machining. That machinist could not sub for a welding, automotive, or any other career tech course. SB 89 would eliminate this issue.

Transferability of Adult Teaching Permit (p. 39; Lines 1109-1113)

SB89 would also allow individuals who possess permits to teach adult education classes to instruct in more than one district. Most adult education instructors are part time, teaching one or two

nights per week. Currently, an instructor with an Adult Education permit can only instruct for the district listed on his/her permit. All of my adult instructors have permits that list UVCC. If the instructor is interested in teaching for both Upper Valley Career Center and Apollo Career Center, for example, he/she would need to apply for and pay for a second permit. In other words, the permit is not transferable.

Our reality is that it is extremely difficult to find adult workforce instructors, especially in the current job market. At the same time, the demand for our focused, skill-based training programs is increasing. Allowing adult permits to be used in any adult program increases the availability of instructors, expands opportunities for adult students, and reduces costs for instructors and school districts.

Adult Teaching Permit / Sub for High School Courses (p. 39; Lines 1114-1121)

The third component of SB 89 that deals with licensure would allow individuals with adult instructor permits—who are employed by a district to teach adult classes—to also substitute in career and technical programs at the high school level for up to 80 days. This change in law would reduce costs of duplicate credentialing, increase the pool of available subs, and provide more qualified substitutes in emerging / unique career fields.

The changes outlined above would increase quality instruction for students, reduce costs, allow for program expansion, and increase schools' flexibility. Thank you for your time; I would be happy to answer any questions.