



**Ohio Senate Finance
Primary and Secondary Subcommittee
Sub. HB166 Interested Party Testimony**

**Testimony of William DiMascio, President
Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools**

Chair Terhar, Vice Chair Lehner, and members of the Ohio Senate Finance, Primary and Secondary Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present interested party testimony for Sub. HB166. My name is William DiMascio, and I am the Educational Coordinator for the West Shore Career-Technical District in Lakewood, Ohio. West Shore Career Tech is a Compact Career-Technical Planning District which includes the districts of Lakewood, Bay Village, Rocky River, and Westlake City School Districts--Lakewood being the lead district. Compacts share delivery and costs through service agreements between multiple school districts. Additionally, I am the current President of the Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools (Ohio CCS). Ohio CCS represents Ohio's 41 Compact and Comprehensive career-technical planning districts in the State of Ohio. Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about the Ohio's career-technical education programs no matter the delivery system.

We appreciate the focus on and priority of career-technical education and workforce development by Gov. DeWine, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and members of the Ohio General Assembly. Ohio is facing a critical shortage within the skilled trades; as industries modernize and baby boomers retire, we need to focus of training and preparing our students and retraining those already in workforce to fill these in-demand jobs. To fulfill this need and realize the full potential of Ohio's nationally renowned career-technical education (CTE) system it is imperative funding be adequately maintained.

In order to advance and expand career and technical education (CTE) opportunities in Ohio for students statewide, career-tech representatives from JVSDs, Comprehensives and Compacts, as well as other education stakeholders, served on the work group convened by the co-chairs of this committee to review the state's school funding formula and submit recommendations for improvement. After a thorough review, CTE representatives submitted the following primary recommendations: maintain base aid for JVSDs, comprehensives and compacts; maintain career-technical education "weighted" funding outside the cap/guarantee; establish state programs to secure innovative approaches to career exploration; expand options for Ohioans without a high school diploma.

Ohio CCS additionally has concern about language contained in Sub. HB166 regarding the valuation of Industry-Recognized Credentials to be determined at the local level by business advisory committee of each career-technical planning district (CTPD) and approved by the Board of the Lead District (ORC 3313.618, 3313.912, 3317.023). While we acknowledge our members have experienced frustration with the current process of approval and valuation of Industry-Recognized

Credentials by the Ohio Department of Education, we do not believe the language contained in Sub. HB166 is best for Ohio's students. The valuation of Industry-Recognized Credentials at the secondary level should be standard, portable, and meaningful across the state. We respectfully ask for the removal of this language from the bill.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation and support the provisions of Sub. HB166 which provide expanded reimbursement to cover the cost of the Industry-Recognized Credentials (Line Item 200478) and the continued funding of Career-Technical Enhancements (Line Item 200545); items such as the aforementioned allow us to provide high quality career-technical education to Ohio's students. Specifically, the reimbursement for Industry-Recognized Credentials will be a direct benefit to Ohio's students who have the ability to earn the credential, but do not have the means to pay the fee to sit for the exam.

Thank you, again for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony for Sub. HB166. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.