

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Burke, and Ranking Member Sykes and members of the committee, I am Sandy Mead, National Director of Workforce Development of MedCerts. MedCerts is an approved training provider on Ohio’s Job and Family Services’ Workforce Inventory of Employment Training.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today about House Bill 2, the TechCred and Micro-Credential Assistance Programs.

MedCerts was created in 2009 to meet the demands of the United States Armed Forces’ MYCAA Scholarship program for Military Spouses. MedCerts, an online provider, helped to fill the gap in producing viable options for Military spouses to pursue educational and career goals in the form of national certifications. The online training allows spouses to accomplish their education goals as they relocate around the world with their soldier.

MedCerts began working with the Federal Workforce Investment Act to offer consistent short-term, high-demand training for participants across the country to achieve national certifications and increase employability opportunities. We continue to be an approved training provider of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act established in 2014.

Approved in 26 states on the ETPL (Eligible Training Provider List), MedCerts offers short-term, online career training for industry-recognized credentials in Healthcare, Information Technology and Manufacturing sectors. We have an 82% program completion rate and our students average 81% exam pass rate. MedCerts curriculum incorporates the 12 elements of e-Learning which provides a structured, user-friendly multimedia format that includes simulations, virtual real-life scenarios, and interactive games. More importantly, we’ve blended a mentored learning assistance model with expert instructors and certification professionals.

Our strategic partnerships with American Job Centers like Ohio Means Jobs, Goodwill Industries, Community Action agencies, employers and health systems across the country directly relates to our student’s successful outcomes so they can start new careers faster. Our partnerships have enabled MedCerts to work directly with additional grant funding programs such as the Army COOL, Healthcare Professional Opportunity Grants, TechHire and the Next Level Jobs program in the state of Indiana.

MedCerts supports House Bill 2 and its efforts to expand access to micro-credentials to strengthen Ohio’s workforce. Through our experience, we have witnessed individuals overcome significant barriers and gain access to high demand careers. With today’s busy lifestyles, MedCerts provides a balance of training that works around employment and family schedules. Allowing the opportunity to increase education leading to career growth.

CompTIA’s credentials offer the foundational knowledge for individuals to begin a career in Information Technology. Nationwide statistics show 219,866 new postings for Computer Support Specialist across the country. Ohio had over 5650 postings for these IT employment fields, over the past year, with an average income of $40,000.

Cyber Information is a great career pathway for those with the IT Foundation knowledge/experience, with income opportunities over $90,000. The House Bill 2 program offers entry-level training with great career growth opportunities for the residents of Ohio.

MedCerts online training is a perfect fit for Ohio employers to provide IT training opportunities for their employees. The credential programs will fill their IT growth needs while keeping employee retention for these promotional positions.

MedCerts can customize IT training programs to 6-week sessions. Add an additional 4 – 6 weeks for IT simulations, practice exams and exam testing with MedCerts, one-on-one support and mentoring for each participant provides increased successful outcomes. MedCerts 90-day start to finish programs fit nicely within the House Bill 2 goals.

MedCerts is excited to partner with Goodwill Industries across the state of Ohio to deliver a blended learning training model for individuals to achieve CompTIA’s A+, Network+, Security+ credentials. The IT training with Goodwill’s facilitated wrap-around services provides both academic credential skills with the employer’s continual need for remedial and soft skills. Goodwill’s ability to provide this local hands-on skill for those with barriers gives an added touch for success.

It is exciting for Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee to be working on the House Bill 2 program to increase the skills for Ohioans to meet the demands of all local businesses while providing a self-sustaining career to individuals. Such a great opportunity you are providing! I will be happy to take any questions.

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