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**Senate Finance Committee
Testimony on S.B. 316
Michael Geoghegan, Interim President and CFO of Eastern Gateway Community College**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on S.B. 316. I am Michael Geoghegan, Interim President and Chief Financial Officer of Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC).

I write in support of S.B. 316 and fully support Eastern Gateway Community College's capital reappropriation line items included in the bill for ongoing projects at our Youngstown and Steubenville campuses. The projects are mission critical for Ohio and will create jobs, expand workforce development and revitalize distressed communities in Youngstown and Steubenville.

In the Mahoning Valley, EGCC is aligned with local, state and national efforts to bring jobs back following the Lordstown GM closure. Plans are being made to construct a \$2 Billion Next Gen battery cell plant and EGCC is at the forefront of educating the region's workforce.

We support the reappropriation of funds for the Mahoning Valley Community Health Care Training Center, a project collaboration between the college and the Western Reserve Port Authority. As we work together to fight the Coronavirus, having well-trained and skilled healthcare professionals is paramount. This funding is being used to repurpose an existing building we are converting to a workforce training center, while improving the façade in downtown Youngstown.

As we expand our footprint in Youngstown, we continue to serve students and workers in Steubenville. In partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission, EGCC is repurposing an existing facility to create a workforce training center dedicated to retraining displaced power plant workers for jobs in the petrochemical industry. The PTTGCA project to build an \$8 billion petrochemical complex in Belmont County will create significant demand for a petrochemical workforce in our region. The reappropriation of workforce training funds are critical to equipping the new center where this workforce will be trained.

We recognize the enormous financial challenges facing the state and we support the work the General Assembly is doing to help steer the state's recovery once the pandemic abates. We feel strongly that the project funding being reappropriated in S.B. 316 will accelerate the economic recovery in the Mahoning and Ohio River Valleys.

To demonstrate our commitment to students during these difficult times, we have forgone our CARES Act funding and established a program called The Summer Guarantee, a free college benefit for students in EGCC's service district during the summer months.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

