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Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee

February 14, 2022

Proponent Testimony

House Bill 277

Superintendent,
Wayne County Schools Career Center

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

My name is Dr. Kip Crain. I am the Superintendent of Wayne County Schools Career Center. We serve over 800 secondary and 1500 post-secondary students each year in Career-Technical Education in Wayne County, Ohio and surrounding areas. I have been superintendent here for 18 years. I am the past president of the OACTS (Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents) and OCTA (Ohio Career Technical Administrators) and received the Administrator of the Year and Distinguished Service Awards from Ohio ACTE (Association of Career Technical Education). I'm here today to express my support for HB 277.

I am writing today's letter as a proponent of House Bill 277. 25 of our 27 CTE programs at the secondary level and 10 of our 12 post-secondary instruction programs can be taken in 900 hours or less from becoming a welder, CNC machine operator, to being a medical assistant. It takes less hours than the 1500 to be a Licensed Practical Nurse. It takes 40 hours of flight instruction to receive a private pilot license, 250 for a commercial pilot certificate, 80 hours to be a state tested nurse assistant, 120 hours to be EMT and save lives, but it takes 1500 hours of instruction to cut hair in Ohio. Our positive placement rates for both secondary and post-secondary have always been above 85% for the past 15 years.

Many students cannot complete the 1500 hours without staying after school, during spring break (instead of going on vacation with families), and summer work. Some Career Centers have dropped the Cosmetology program since a many of their students don't have the transportation or way to complete the hours with the many academic courses now required for graduation. Several key points to keep in mind are:

- The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board is the evaluator of the applicant. Once licensed everyone become equals. Experience, then, makes up the difference.
- House Bill 277 is a commonsense approach to the transition from student to stylist for the industry.
- Career technical and college ready as over 50% of our students go on to apprenticeships, technical schools, or universities. The focus has changed and now gives students options of doing both.
- Our career technical schools have two (2) set or rules to abide by. The Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board.
- Our standards are high and rigorous and are being met by our educators and staff.
- Reduces cosmetology hours from 1,500 to 1,000
- Reduces hair designer hours from 1,200 to 800
- Reduces barber hours from 1,800 to 1,000

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with proponent testimony on HB 277. I urge your support for the bill.

Here is a link to the bill: <https://ohiohouse.gov/legislation/134/hb277>

Sincerely,



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"Using compassion, respect, and teamwork, we make the WCSCC a great place to work and learn."