



**House Bill 514
Proponent Testimony
Terry Donelon, Director, Government Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
April 5, 2022**

Chairwoman Lanese, Vice Chair Young, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the House Higher Education & Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express our organization's support for House Bill 514.

My name is Terry Donelon and I have the pleasure of serving as Director of Government Advocacy for the Greater Cleveland Partnership – the region's leading economic development organization and with over 12,000 members, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation.

Today we write you to offer our full support for House Bill 514, which would provide much needed incentives to boost Ohio's skilled workforce and make our state more desirable for businesses looking to grow or relocate. Studies show that Ohio is only retaining about 56% of its college graduates – a below average performance when compared to other states across the country. In an effort to help correct this issue, the Greater Cleveland Partnership has made it one of our organization's foremost priorities to find new, innovative solutions to attract and retain talent in the state. With that priority in mind, we believe that House Bill 514 is a tremendous step forward on the road to securing Ohio's future workforce needs.

We have an opportunity at this moment to utilize this post-pandemic recovery period to reshape and retool our long-term strategy for growing Ohio's talent base. Make no mistake, now is the time to invest in our future workforce. This is our chance to set in motion a course of events that will make Ohio one of the most attractive states in the Midwest and in the nation for businesses to grow and operate.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Representative Cross and Representative Denson for bringing this legislation forward. This is yet another example of how business and government can work together to improve the lives of all Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out by email at tdonelon@greatercle.com.