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Ohio House State and Local Government Committee Hearing on SB 131 - Require occupational license if experienced in another state

Interested Party - Testimony of The Ohio Workforce Association

December 12, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony as an interested party on SB 131— legislation that addresses occupational license requirements if experienced in another state. This interested party testimony is submitted on behalf of the Ohio Workforce Association (OWA) membership.

The OWA represents and offers supports to 20 local Workforce Development Boards across Ohio. There are 245 local businesses represented across these Boards, as well as 28 Business Organizations and more than 40 labor representatives. The following are the largest business sectors that are represented on our Boards:

- 62 Manufacturing
- 31 Business Services
- 30 Financial Services
- 29 Healthcare
- 25 Construction and Skilled Trade Companies

Our workforce system utilizes OhioMeansJobs Centers in all 88 counties to assist both job seekers and businesses. Through our Boards and these Centers, we are the state's "boots on the ground" in convening and connecting all things related to workforce development. Local workforce boards and our OhioMeansJobs Centers coordinate services among local, state, and federal workforce and training partner organizations and may provide funds and supports to eligible job seekers to obtain training, credentialing, and licensure to secure gainful employment. We partner with Ohio's community colleges and universities, as well as other training providers, and our local workforce boards support opportunities to overcome any barriers to securing and engaging in employment quickly. For example, with Ohio's current tight labor market and high need for workers in the helping professions, streamlining reciprocity of occupational licenses held by workers from other states who move to Ohio to work would be helpful.

Thank you for reviewing occupational licensing requirements to work in Ohio. OWA would be happy to address any questions at the committee's convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer M. Meek Eells".

Jennifer M. Meek Eells, Executive Director
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