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State Representative

43<sup>rd</sup> District

Sponsor Testimony, May 4th 2021

H.B. 197

House Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Sobecki, and Members of the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 197 which would authorize an income tax credit for an employer's expenses to train a commercial vehicle operator.

The amount of certified and trained drivers has been shrinking exponentially over the past few years, because of the nature of the pandemic and how it has affected the industry. Local news has even reported that there could be an upcoming shortage in fuel, not because of a lack of production, but due to a lack of trained tanker truck drivers<sup>1</sup>. To further the damage of last year, places that typically hold training classes for certified CDL persons were also shut down for parts of the year, meaning drivers that retired or left the field altogether were not able to be replaced with newly trained drivers.

House Bill 197 aims to combat the lack of trained CDL drivers on the road by helping employers with the cost of training newly certified drivers. Almost every business we have spoken to mentions the lack of drivers and their struggle to find new ones. This bill would help these companies to spend more time recruiting and training new drivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 197. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

1. <https://www.whio.com/news/trending/truck-driver-shortage-could-cause-gas-pumps-run-dry-this-summer/MEMK4HK7SFH7PAMGVXVSHSR7WU/>