



May 25, 2021

To: Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Chair Andrew Brenner

From: Beth Lear, Vice President of Government Affairs, Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio

Re: Amendment to Senate Bill 166

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor and members of the Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

My name is Beth Lear from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about amendment 1216.

First though, I would like to thank Senator Reineke for his support of this amendment to his bill, Senate Bill 166. His legislation will benefit career tech students and Ohio businesses.

This amendment fits well in the bill since its focus is workforce development opportunities for 16 and 17 year-olds who are interested in learning about and working in skilled trades.

Two years ago Governor DeWine proposed this very same language in his budget. The program was designed to create mentorship opportunities in manufacturing *and* construction. Both industries fully backed this program, but in spite of the joint effort, the quality of the plan and support from both the Governor and the Senate, the *former* Speaker stripped the construction component from the budget. The final version had manufacturing only.

Today that manufacturing piece of the mentorship program is working well. Businesses and students are benefitting. Our request is that you restore the construction component so that even more students and Ohio businesses can participate.

High school students deserve as many opportunities as you can give them to succeed. Both SB 166 and this amendment will increase those opportunities for businesses who desperately need skilled employees and students who are looking forward to working in a career that is satisfying and pays well. Please support this amendment.

Thank you for your time.