



November 28, 2022

The Honorable Andrew Brenner
Chairman, Ohio Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 178

Dear Chairman Brenner:

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and our thousands of members, I write to you in support of Senate Bill 178; legislation that would seek to improve the academic achievement and workforce skills of our students, to drive better outcomes in their education, and to prepare for more effective career readiness.

As the state's leading business advocate, the Ohio Chamber aggressively champions free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans. We hear from our members on a constant, if not daily, basis that they are struggling mightily to find employees to fill current vacancies. Our support of SB 178 is because it is our belief that with better alignment of state agencies and a renewed focus under the new Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), our employers will see a better result as it relates to career readiness.

SB 178 makes a number of other changes to the Department of Education and other state agencies, but our focus and our support is relative to the renewed focus this bill takes to making sure our students are ready for the workforce or prepared for college upon graduation. The focus on this bill is truly ensuring that we are doing the best for our students in preparing the workforce of the future.

We want to applaud Senator Reineke for his many years of work on this issue and his willingness to take on such a complex issue.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to support SB 178. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support of SB 178 at kbochner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Boehner". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kevin Boehner
Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy