

Senator Bill Reineke

South Hearing Room, Ohio State Capitol

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Good afternoon My name is Corey Adams and I am the educational program manager for Universal Robots the global leader in collaborative robotics. I am here as an industry professional and educator and a taxpayer who is here to support SB 178. Over the last 3 years I have been validating the issues we see in the growing skills gap we see in manufacturing and how we as industry can begin to make a difference. There is a robust education and training system in the United States. Between industry-run academies, academic institutions, and vocational training centers, around \$26 Billion dollars goes towards workforce training every year. Yet when asking US CEOs, two of the most concerning issues companies face are retention and upskilling. Manufacturers will need to hire workers with a different skill set than their current employees. As factories begin to automate there is a growing increase their current workforce to understand the necessary skills.

In recent surveys we have conducted so far, we have identified that there is a strong presence of robotics technology training in the “general education” space. In contrast, both the vocational reskilling and upskilling programs lack that of skilled teachers who are largely not aware of how technology is altering the fields in which they teach.

We need to change the way we look at workforce development and ensure that we are training for 21st century jobs and one of the ways we do that is to put a heightened focus on WFD training centers and technical high schools to ensure that we are truly preparing them for a job in today’s high-tech world.

I believe SB 178 is the first step to addressing the needs of not only manufacturing but to ensure the next generations of engineers, robotics technicians and integrators are ready for their next chapter.

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