



To: Members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

From: Vince Squillace, Executive Vice President, OHBA

Date: December 5, 2022

Re: *Proponent Testimony SB 178*

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio Home Builders Association (OHBA) for SB 178, which would reform the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Department of Education, recognizing the need for a dual focus on primary and secondary education, as well as preparing students for the workforce. A lack of skilled construction labor is a key limiting factor to expand home construction and improve housing inventory and affordability.

OHBA applauds Senator Reineke and fully supports SB 178's goal 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. OHBA, along with local associations and the National Association of Home Builders engages in efforts highlighting the importance of equipping Americans with the education and training necessary to advance their careers and rebuild our economy. With increased attention on skills training, now is the time to raise awareness about career paths available to students, including those in residential construction industry. For construction to expand further, more workers must be recruited and trained for the construction sector.

A skilled and capable workforce that is adequate to meet our nation's housing demand is vital to home builders. Despite competitive pay, the home building industry continues to experience labor shortages, which impacts housing affordability. OHBA supports Senate Bill 178 and specifically the provisions that place a renewed and heightened emphasis on career-technical education.

Thanks for your time and opportunity to provide comments on SB 178. Feel free to contact OHBA with any questions.

Vince Squillace, Executive Vice President, OHBA