



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 71

Representative Nick Santucci, 64th House District

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the Community Connectors Workforce Program, House Bill 71.

Workforce preparedness is an essential aspect following a student's graduation from high school. Soft skills have been identified as an area needing improvement for students entering into the workforce for the first time. The Community Connectors Workforce Program addresses this concern by creating an emphasis on soft skill training. Having acquired these skills, students will be better prepared to succeed over the course of their professional career.

Society has seen consistent patterns of young adults not gaining employment. This program encourages young adults to work. By partnering with educational service centers, the Community Connectors Workforce Program revives the structure of the Community Connectors Grant program. The Community Connectors Workforce Program will be administered by the Department of Education and this legislation creates an on-site director into high schools throughout Ohio.

This program's role will be to identify available jobs and prepare students to help employers fill their workforce needs. Through this process, businesses and other employers are connected to students to gain professional work experience. This program will work with OhioMeansJobs and community partners to fill available jobs and internships while complying with applicable minor laws prescribed under section 4109.02 of the Revised Code.

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you again for giving me an opportunity to speak with you today on this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.