

# Ohio House Primary & Secondary Education Committee

*Tuesday, June 13, 2023*

## Proponent Testimony: House Bill 71

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### Introduction

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today in support of House Bill (HB) 71 on behalf of the Hamilton County Education Service Center.

### Overview

As presented early from Executive Director Craig Buford of the Ohio Education Service Center Association

ESCs are required by law to perform certain statutorily mandated functions or services which include:

- Appointing a Business Advisory Council to promote the facilitation, coordination and networking among school districts was highlighted with his testimony.
- In addition, the role of the Business Advisory Council focuses on the stakeholders within the region to promote:
  - Developing Professional Skill for Future Careers
  - Excellence in Building Partnerships
  - Excellence in Coordinating Experience

This is where House Bill 71, would allow the continued advancements and connections to foster throughout the regions associated with Education Service Centers in Ohio. This is where my personal passions to create opportunities for public and private sectors to become focused on a shared solution in Ohio. We can create a sustainable, and economic developed Ohio by working towards connections with education and strong industry sector partnerships. These relationships promote the tomorrow, today through development of school-based learning, strong business advisory councils in Ohio, and placing an emphasis upon shared solutions for all parties involved.

## **Focus**

As stated earlier, nearly 90% of districts in the state have opted to utilize the ESCs for the purpose of appointing and operating a BAC. In Hamilton County alone, that consists of 26 public school districts including the four Great Oaks Vocational Centers, and estimated 184,000, young people under the age of 18. These schools rely heavily on the ESC of Hamilton County not only to lead the future in workforce development but to also to support it by preparing the connections, and opportunities to establish a healthy growing employment base in the region.

Over the past six years, I have worked to establish ( EXPERIENCESHIPS) a term I used to encompass any work based-learning activity that is provided by an organization that fits their personalized model of learning. Hence, allowing for creative ways to provide internships, shadows, mentoring, field trips, teacher externships. In addition, the Ohio Means Job Readiness Seal became the foundation to train, and educate both students, and companies on the fundamentals of *Essential Skills* in the work force. The process I presented allowed for students and industry to interact in a safe and legal platform and to encourage direct access with no barriers to communication. Safe, ethical, parent-involved, student lead, industry rich connections, and paperless. Over the first four years (and throughout COVID protocols) over 500 students participated within the system. I also was able to show that 80% of the students who participated in healthcare related experiences stayed in healthcare related studies or employment, post-graduation. Experiences occurred during the school year, during the summer, after school, during the school day, and on the weekends. I have supported the duplication of the process within two other school districts to date.

Currently, the Hamilton County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council is helping to drive that model to a regional approach that will connect students, educators, and private sector learning together in a portal that will be placed within their everyday learning management system within their schools. I am one person. I am driven to provide access to ALL students regardless of location, social-economics, transportation, limited school resources, not enough counselors/school personnel, technology access, and anything else that limits future hope. We are working to answer the call of work-based learning to create a future strong Ohio economy, high graduation rates, and a place for each student to connect to their career choice.

What I need is help.

## **House Bill 71 Support**

The goals and objectives outlined in the analysis of the bill align to the needs of work within the ESC's scope of practice, and as you have heard, we are serving the regions to move forward. As Craig Buford stated, providing policy direction and targeted funding ensures that someone, every day is responsible for the work, coordinating with local business and the state, and is reporting progress against specific measurable goals. On behalf of my region, I encourage the passage of HB 71, and I thank you for allowing me to share a small portion of large-scale work that is taking place in southwest, Ohio.

I am open to questions or clarifications at your leisure.

