

**Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee**

**April 23, 2024**

**Hearing on HB 432 (Career-Technical Educator Licensure)**

**Written Testimony of Bob Alsept, Superintendent**

**Buckeye Career Center**

Chairman Bird, Vice-Chair Fowler, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

My name is Bob Alsept and I have been the superintendent at Buckeye Career Center located in New Philadelphia, Ohio for the past ten years. Prior to that I served as the superintendent at New Philadelphia City Schools. I feel that I have a strong background in both Career-Technical and K-12 Education. I am writing this in support of House Bill 432 to amend the Career-Technical Workforce Development Educator Licensure process.

Buckeye Career Center serves eleven different districts located primarily in three different counties. Like most career centers, we have seen enrollment grow at a very high rate. We believe the most important part of any successful career tech program is having a knowledgeable, professional, and charismatic instructor. People with these traits are in very high demand in the private sector. It is very difficult to recruit these individuals. We have been fortunate but the discrepancy in wages, coupled with the demands of licensure requirements is another roadblock to filling these programs with professional instructors.

We have truly found that the work experiences and life experiences of our Career-Tech instructors have been very valuable to them as they start their new career in education. We have also been blessed with a collaborative and supportive staff who helps the new instructors on a daily basis. This daily support has proven to be very valuable to the new instructors. As Career Tech continues to grow across our state, the need for quality instructors across all pathways will also become more important. I feel that House Bill 432 will allow the flexibility to meet the needs of the new instructor, students and career centers across Ohio. The current requirements can be cumbersome and difficult to understand.

One example we faced in recent years was hiring an Agriculture teacher for one of our satellites. The candidate had more than five years of agricultural work experience. This individual had also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies education. This seemed like a perfect candidate. This individual received his Career Tech License, but was required to take an additional 18 credit hours to renew this license. The university waived six credit hours. I still do not understand this. This individual had the knowledge and the pedagogy but was still required to complete the 18 hours for renewal.

I do not want to place unqualified individuals in our programs. Both Career Tech and K-12 schools are struggling to find qualified teachers across all disciplines. For Career Tech, House Bill 432 would give us the ability to design a program that best fits the needs of our new instructors and their students. Some individuals would still benefit from the current requirement of 24 Credit Hours. Others would receive more appropriate support from a hybrid that includes college credits and a program designed by their employing district. I believe that the Career-Technical Planning District leads should be involved in the process for our K-12 partners to give consistency and continuity. House Bill 432 would provide different avenues to success. This is similar to all of the current pathways for students. No matter if they choose Career-Tech, brick and mortar K-12, college-credit plus or a hybrid of all three, students can find their path to success. This is what House Bill 432 would do for Career-Technical education. Allow us to find the best path to success for our valuable instructors!

Thank you so much for your continued support and consideration of this issue. Career-Tech in Ohio is successful because of you!

Sincerely,

Bob Alsept  
Superintendent