

March 22nd, 2023

Chairman Edwards, Representative Richardson and members of the Ohio House, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 33 today. My name is Ritch Ramey. I am currently the Director of Education for the world's largest Robotics and Automation organization A3 the Association for Advancing Automation. A3 has more than 70 companies headquartered in Ohio with more than 70,000 associates. I recently retired from teaching after having spent the last 40 years in manufacturing and manufacturing education. The last 32 with Tri-Rivers Career Center and Marion Technical College as an engineering technology, certified Yaskawa Motoman Industrial Robotics and Parker Industrial Hydraulics instructor. As an instructor/coordinator of the 23 RAMTEC programs statewide I successfully applied and supported approval for FANUC, Yaskawa Motoman Industrial and Universal Robotics credentials as well as Rockwell Allen-Bradley PLCs, Mitsubishi PLCs, , FANUC CNC and FANUC Robotics iRVision and Parker Hydraulics certifications for our secondary and post-secondary students. Tri-Rivers RAMTEC in Marion alone has successfully certified more than 800 adults, teachers, and students in these industrial robotics credentials. Today there are 26 CTE and RAMTEC centers throughout Ohio teaching and certifying students in real world robotics and automation credentials that are desperately needed in advanced manufacturing companies throughout Ohio and the nation. Ohio is well known as the leader in advanced manufacturing education because of the development of these facilities.

I urge the legislation to support and prioritize funding for Ohio's secondary and adult post-secondary educational institutions that are championing the new emphasis on industrial credentialing to further develop and prepare our existing and future workforce. This equipment is expensive and there is high demand from our members for not only new workers but to upskill their existing workforce. Robotic and automation small and medium size integration companies such as Gosiger in Dayton, Xigent Automation and ATS in Liberty Center, Advanced Automation in Van Wert, APT in Hicksville, AutoTool in Plain City and many others across the state are the backbone of robotics and automation installations in most companies across the nation. They need a workforce that is floor-ready in the areas of 3D CAD, tooling, welding, safety, robotics, advanced electronics, IIoT, Ai, vision and the latest new technology. Our career centers prepare students upon graduation and even before graduation to fill these positions. **But we need more. More students, more equipment, and more highly skilled instructors. The passage of a fully funded Career Technical Education portion of HB 33 bill will insure we continue to lead and attract new businesses in our national movement to reshore jobs in this nation and strengthen our supply chain.**

I recently was told by a major robotics manufacturing in Dayton of a CTE Advanced Manufacturing program in Southwest Ohio that turned away 80 students this year. This nation is estimated in the latest studies by the National Association of Manufacturing to need 3.1 million new workers in manufacturing by 2030. We need to fully support program to support all students in both secondary and adult programs. We need to also support funding to build a K to gray pipeline. That includes funding for career exploration, robotics contests such as the recent Vex State Robotics contests in Akron and Marion as well as the upcoming SkillsUSA contest in Columbus, after school programs and statewide events such as signing day in elementary, middle school and high school. That is what other states such as Nevada, Florida, Alabama, Indiana and Michigan are doing to help attract and maintain their workforces.

I urge the legislature to approve fully funding for CTE education, training and career exploration in House Bill 33 and allow Ohio companies and educational institutions to do what they do best.

Manufacturing will continue to lead the action if given a skilled workforce due to this bill. Educational instructors, leaders and institutions will adopt best practices create the latest and greatest educational and training programs to creates a pipeline of skilled workers to this companies so that Ohio's unemployment will continue to set records on unemployment rates. I urge you to approve House Bill 33. Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully,

Ritch Ramey  
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