

Senator Bill Reineke

South Hearing Room, Ohio State Capitol

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, and Members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 1.

Good afternoon My name is Corey Adams and I am the educational program manager for Universal Robots the global leader in collaborative robotics. I am here as an industry professional and educator and a taxpayer who is here to support SB 1. Over the last 3 years I have been validating the issues we see in the growing skills gap in manufacturing and how we as industry can begin to make a difference.

During my time validating education and WFD programs across the US especially here in Ohio I became to see that there is a robust education and training system in the United States. Between industry-run academies, academic institutions, and vocational training centers, around \$26 Billion dollars goes towards workforce training every year. Yet when asking US CEOs, two of the most concerning issues companies face are qualified professionals.

So, I had to ask myself how this was the case. That's because the goals for Education and WFD are very different, when we look at education its focus is around exploratory learning using automation and robotics as tools for students to explore STEM and prepare them for higher-ed. Yet workforce development has a completely different focus to prepare students for entry-level employment in high-demand and industry occupations.

In recent surveys we have conducted so far, we have identified that there is a strong presence of robotics technology training in the "general education" space. In contrast, both the vocational reskilling and upskilling programs lack that of skilled teachers who are largely not aware of how technology is altering the fields in which they teach. I believe that we need to look at Education and Workforce development through a different lens as the focus is different for each segment.

I believe SB 1 is the first step to addressing the needs of not only manufacturing but to ensure the next generations of engineers, robotics technicians and integrators are ready for their next chapter.