



## **Ohio Restaurant Association Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1**

February 21, 2023

Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of Ohio's 23,676 restaurant and foodservice locations employing more than 520,000 Ohioans, the Ohio Restaurant Association appreciates the opportunity to support Senate Bill 1 and thanks Senator Reineke for sponsoring this important and timely legislation.

Training today's youth for tomorrow's careers should be a primary goal of the state's education system. We appreciate SB 1's focus on workforce development as essential to the success of Ohio's students. Schools that focus on teaching young people how to be a valuable part of the workforce will serve those students well for the rest of their life.

While some kids go on to college and more specialized education, it is essential that all students emerge from Ohio's schools fully ready to participate in today's workforce. Leaning into the employer community to make sure this happens is essential to our education system's success. Senate Bill 1's focus on workforce and the potential for stepped up accountability will serve our state well.

Ohio's restaurants are proud of being many people's first job and of the many opportunities for a wide variety of careers in the growing hospitality field. Hospitality also often leads to robust entrepreneurship, which is vital to a strong and growing state economy. Vibrant restaurants make for strong, growing communities. A strong workforce focused education system will help Ohio's hospitality businesses continue to provide robust employment and career opportunities and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities and neighborhoods throughout Ohio.

Schools that lead to students emerging with a work ready mindset and work ready skills will help every Ohio employer and every Ohio student and will put Ohio in the best position to be the most desirable state in the nation to live, work and raise a family.

Tod Bowen  
Managing Director of External Affairs and Government Relations  
Ohio Restaurant Association