



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LORAIN HIGH SCHOOL
U.S. ARMY JROTC "TITAN" BATTALION
2600 Ashland Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052
Phone: (440) 830-4500 ext. 31372



LHS-JROTC

November 4, 2025

MEMO FOR the 136th Ohio General Assembly

FROM: Army Instructor

SUBJECT: Support for HB 500 – Recognizing JROTC as a Career and Technical Education Program

Dear Members of the 136th Ohio General Assembly,

As a Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army Retired, and the Army Instructor at Lorain High School, I write to express my strong support for House Bill 500, which seeks to formally recognize Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) as a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in the state of Ohio. With over 15 years of military leadership and experience as a professional educator, I have witnessed firsthand the profound and positive impact JROTC has on our students and communities.

JROTC plays a vital role in public schools across Ohio, teaching students leadership, discipline, teamwork, and civic responsibility. The program prepares young men and women not only for military service, should they choose that path, but for success in a wide range of careers. JROTC cadets consistently demonstrate higher graduation rates, improved academic achievement, and stronger character development. Recognizing JROTC as a CTE pathway will expand these benefits and provide more students with the opportunity to thrive.

Importantly, designating JROTC as a CTE program would allow Ohio students to earn the Military's Graduation Seal, recognizing their dedication and achievement while also strengthening their post-secondary opportunities. Furthermore, this legislation offers the prospect for students to earn additional academic credits in essential subjects such as health, geography, civics, and financial literacy. The JROTC curriculum is comprehensive and already meets or exceeds the learning standards in these disciplines, making it a logical and effective avenue for awarding credit.

Currently, many JROTC programs in Ohio are underfunded by their host schools, despite their proven value and benefits. By classifying JROTC as a CTE program, these programs would become eligible for additional support and funding through the Federal Perkins Grant. This critical funding would help to ensure that JROTC units can continue to provide high-quality instruction, leadership opportunities, and real-world skills to our students.

I urge you to support HB 500, which would recognize JROTC as a Career and Technical Education program in Ohio. This legislation will not only honor the hard work of our cadets and instructors but will also strengthen our schools and communities for years to come.

The point of contact is the undersigned at ecatanesse@lorainnschools.org or (440) 830-4500.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward G. Catanese Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Edward G. Catanese Jr.
Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army Retired
Army Instructor, Lorain High School.