



## SOUTHEAST REGION

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 96, Ohio's proposed operating budget for fiscal years 2026-27, specifically regarding the Career Technical Enhancements line item 200545.

I am Katie Good and am the Chief Administrator of the Ohio College Tech Prep Southeast Regional Center located at the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center. I support 6 post-secondary institutions, 14 Career Technical Planning Districts, and 16 Business Advisory Councils in our region.

While I am the person standing at the podium today, I am testifying on behalf of myself and the 5 other current Tech Prep Regional Chief Administrators who have all also submitted written testimony.

We would like to express our strong concern over the current funding level proposed in the Senate Finance Committee version of the budget. We respectfully urge the committee to restore funding to **\$9.6 million**, as introduced in the Executive Budget and as passed by the House.

Ohio's Tech Prep Regional Centers have a **proven history of building high-quality partnerships** with our Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs) and post-secondary institutions. We have consistently demonstrated our **ability to adapt to the evolving needs** of both education and workforce development in the state. As the **essential connector and convener** in each of our regions, we play a vital role in designing and coordinating seamless Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways that prepare Ohio students for success.

Currently, the 6 Tech Prep Regional Centers provide essential services and coordination to:

- **91 Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs)**
- **611 School Districts**
- **14 Universities**
- **22 Community Colleges**
- **110 Business Advisory Councils**

We support our partners through:

- Development of aligned secondary-to-postsecondary pathways
- Expansion of career-technical programming



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- Technical assistance and training
- Regional collaboration with business and industry

It is our understanding that the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce intends to expand our current scope of work to include new priorities outlined in the Senate version of the budget. While we are excited about the opportunity to expand and align our work with the newly updated **JobsOhio regions through the creation of a 7th Tech Prep region**, this important growth cannot be responsibly supported with only a **\$1.3 million increase** from current funding levels.

This **modest increase will not enable us** to continue the high-quality services that our stakeholders expect **while simultaneously supporting new responsibilities**. To do both—maintain quality and grow our scope—we urge you to restore the line item to **\$9.6 million**.

Ohio's continued investment in this infrastructure will ensure that we can meet the moment—bridging education and workforce, advancing innovation in CTE, and preparing the next generation of Ohio's skilled workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing this essential work in service to Ohio's students, schools, employers, and communities.

Respectfully,  
Katie Good  
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