



COSHOCOTON COUNTY CAREER CENTER

COSHOCOTON COUNTY JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

236 AIRPORT ROAD, COSHOCTON, OHIO 43812-9599

740/622-0211 www.coshocotontcareers.org FAX 740/623-4651

June 3, 2025

Dear Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Career Technical Enhancements line item 200545, which provides critical funding to Ohio's Tech Prep Regional Centers.

As Superintendent of the Coshocton County Joint Vocational School District, and a proud partner of our regional Tech Prep Center, I am writing to express my strong support for restoring funding to \$9.6 million, as included in the Executive Budget and as passed by the House. The proposed Senate version, which includes only a \$1.3 million increase over current funding levels, falls significantly short of what is needed to maintain existing services and support the expanded scope of work outlined by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Our partnership with Tech Prep has been vital to the continued success of our students, programs, and region. Tech Prep functions as a cornerstone of our mission, bridging K-12, postsecondary, and industry sectors. This connection enables us to build and maintain high-quality career pathways aligned with local workforce needs. With their guidance and support, we have been able to:

- Develop and refine aligned secondary-to-postsecondary programs
- Expand student access to career-technical education
- Strengthen dual credit and credentialing opportunities
- Foster meaningful partnerships with local employers
- Navigate complex state and federal initiatives with clarity and confidence

The Tech Prep Regional Centers have consistently demonstrated high-quality service, responsiveness, and leadership. Their ability to bring cross-sector partners together and keep us moving toward common goals is nothing short of remarkable.

As Ohio continues to expand CTE opportunities, particularly through realignment to the seven JobsOhio regions, we stand ready to grow. But this vision cannot be realized without adequate funding. Without the full \$9.6 million restoration, Tech Prep will not be able to meet increased demands or maintain the level of excellence we have come to depend on.

I respectfully urge you to restore full funding to this essential infrastructure so Ohio's students, educators, and employers can continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued dedication to building Ohio's workforce of tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Matt Colvin
Superintendent
Coshocton County JVSD