

Cincinnati State Technical & Community College
Office of the Provost

June 4, 2025

Dear Ohio Senate Finance Committee Members,

I serve as the Provost at Cincinnati State Technical & Community College. On behalf of Cincinnati State, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I respectfully urge the Committee to restore full funding for Tech Prep Regional Centers under the Career Technical Enhancements line item 200545, i.e. \$9.6 million, as introduced in the Executive Budget and passed by the House.

As a long-standing post-secondary partner to our Southwest Region Tech Prep Center, we have seen firsthand the critical role these centers play in aligning secondary and post-secondary education to meet the needs of students and employers across Ohio. Tech Prep Regional Centers are a cornerstone of Ohio's CTE infrastructure, serving as connectors, conveners, and collaborators across sectors. At the community college level, Tech Prep plays a vital role in:

- Supporting articulation and dual credit agreements
- Facilitating CTAG and career pathway alignment
- Encouraging student transitions from high school to college
- Coordinating work-based learning and employer engagement
- Helping us respond to emerging workforce needs with greater speed and cohesion

We understand the Senate version proposes to expand the responsibilities of the Tech Prep network, including the realignment to a 7th region to match the JobsOhio structure. While we fully support this vision and the growth it represents, it must come with an appropriate investment. A \$1.3 million increase is insufficient to support this expanded mission without compromising the high-quality services already being delivered.

If we hope to continue building seamless, student-centered pathways that lead from high school to college to career, Tech Prep must be properly resourced to do this work.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued investment in Ohio's future.
Sincerely,

Robbin Hoopes

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