



June 4, 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 the Director of Programming for Butler Tech and a dedicated partner of our regional Tech Prep Center, I am writing to express strong support for restoring funding to \$9.6 million, as proposed in the Executive Budget and passed by the House. The Senate proposal—reflecting only a \$1.3 million increase over current levels—falls significantly short of the investment needed to sustain existing services and implement the expanded scope of work outlined by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Tech Prep has played an integral role in our efforts to design and deliver high-quality, workforce-aligned programming. As a strategic connector between K–12, postsecondary, and industry, our Tech Prep Center enables us to:

- Design and refine coherent secondary-to-postsecondary pathways, including the creation of regional bilateral agreements that streamline student transitions across all CTE centers in our region
- Expand equitable access to career-technical education for more students
- Strengthen opportunities for college credit and credentials, especially through innovative approaches for students who may not initially qualify for College Credit Plus (CCP) but have demonstrable technical knowledge
- Develop and sustain meaningful employer partnerships that enhance work-based learning and job readiness
- Navigate complex state and federal initiatives through expert guidance, including regional convenings that promote collaboration and alignment among career centers

The Tech Prep infrastructure is not only responsive and adaptive, but it also provides critical leadership at a time when our education and workforce systems must move strategically together. Their ability to convene diverse stakeholders and keep all partners focused on shared regional goals is both effective and essential.

As Ohio looks to expand and realign CTE efforts around the JobsOhio regions, we are eager to contribute to this vision. But this work cannot move forward effectively without appropriate investment. Without full funding, Tech Prep will be unable to meet increased expectations or sustain the strategic support our career tech centers and students currently depend on.

I respectfully urge you to restore full funding to \$9.6 million to ensure Ohio's workforce pipeline remains strong, coordinated, and future-ready.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued commitment to advancing Ohio's students, educators, and economy.

Ann M. Rush

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann M. Rush'.

Director of Programming

Butler Tech

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