



**Automotive Service Association
of Ohio**

**House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Proponent Testimony on HB 429
James Chilcoat
February 10, 2016**

Chairwoman Baker, Vice Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 429. My name is James Chilcoat and I am one of the owners of C & C Tire, an automotive repair facility located in Harrison, Ohio for over 30 years. I graduated from Miami University in 1981, worked for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for two years and opened the business in 1983 with my father-in-law. Six years later my brother-in-law joined the business. We continue to operate as a family business today. We believe in taking care of our customers, our employees, and our community.

I am also the president of the Automotive Service Association of Ohio (ASA Ohio), a statewide association representing hundreds of automotive service professionals throughout Ohio. ASA Ohio serves as a voice for Ohio's independent repair businesses. I would like to thank Representatives Antani and Reineke for sponsoring this important legislation, which would allow the automotive repair industry to qualify for the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program.

The automotive repair industry has changed significantly over the years. One change that shouldn't be surprising is that vehicles today are so much more complicated than in the past. This requires technicians to receive more training than ever before. Additionally, as older technicians are beginning to retire we will need to ensure that the new generation of employees are adequately trained to properly repair these high tech vehicles.

There are a number of training opportunities available to automotive repair technicians. Many of our members ensure that their technicians receive ASE or I-CAR certification. Obtaining these certifications is vital to developing young technicians; nevertheless, paying for the training can be expensive for the individual technician and their employer. It should be of no surprise that the impact of these training costs are especially challenging to Ohio's small independent repair facilities. If a repair shop of four employees sends one technician to receive training, not only is the repair shop paying for this training, but it just lost a quarter of its workforce. Nevertheless, many of us in the industry make this sacrifice because of the long-term benefits to the technician, the company, and our customers. The technicians benefit because they learn skills critical for career development, business owners benefit because they have a better

trained workforce, and our customers benefit because they are assured their vehicles are being repair by a qualified technician.

The Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program is a resource that would be extremely helpful to our industry, especially for smaller independent repair shops. On behalf of ASA Ohio, I ask for your support of HB 429 and will be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J D Chilcoat". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James Chilcoat
President/Chairman – Automotive Service Association of Ohio, Inc.