



**KUMLER
COLLISION, INC.**

Dean DeRolph
President

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**House Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Proponent Testimony on HB 429
2/17/2016**

Chairwoman Baker,

I contact you today in support of HB 429. My name is Dean DeRolph and I am the president of Kumler Collision and Automotive in Lancaster, Ohio. Kumler Collision and Automotive is a full-service automotive repair facility that has been performing high quality collision repairs in the Lancaster area since 1928.

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. As you have heard from other proponents, there is a high demand for qualified technicians in the automotive repair industry. By allowing those in our industry to apply for funding through the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program, it will allow technicians to receive the necessary training to grow within the industry and properly serve their customers.

Many of us in the industry work with our local community and technical colleges to recruit technicians. While these institutions are great resources for us to find young technicians, unfortunately, as vehicles become more complex, additional training is necessary. The skills acquired in the past simply won't be sufficient to repair the vehicles of tomorrow; thus, the need for additional education and training. Additional training also allows our technicians to grow as professionals. By obtaining additional certifications they are able to repair more types of vehicles, take on more responsibility, and ultimately better serve our customers.

I encourage you to review the article I have attached to my testimony. According to the article the demand for highly skilled technicians is on the rise. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in the automotive repair sector will increase 9% from 2012 to 2022. The demand is even higher for diesel truck technicians. The article also mentions the industry's aging workforce and how more people than ever are retiring. This, combined with the increase demand for qualified technicians, will result in a huge shortage of technicians. While I understand the Incumbent Workforce Voucher Program is not designed to assist us in recruiting new workers into the industry, it will assist the industry in training its current employees in order to keep pace with the advancement of technology found in vehicles today and well into the future.

The Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program will be a valuable resource to Ohio's automotive repair industry. I urge the committee to support HB 429.

Sincerely,

Dean DeRolph
President, Kumler Collision and Automotive, Inc.

"Shortage of Skills" analysis addresses skill gap in service repair industry

By cfrey

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AND UNIVERSITIES

This month the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 7.8 million Americans are unemployed, while at the same time 5.4 million jobs remain unfilled in America. This crisis exists because employers demand "job ready" employees and prospective employees are simply not able to bridge the skills gap without appropriate education and training.

With self-driving cars and other new automotive technologies frequently making headlines, it is clear that our vehicles are becoming increasingly complex. Whether it be the next generation of automobiles or diesel trucks, America needs a new generation of skilled, trained technicians to service these vehicles. But the skills of auto repair technicians are failing to keep up. And data shows that the sector is facing demands from both growth and the retirement of current technicians. APSCU's third look at the shortage of skills in America explores the skills gap currently facing the automotive industry.

The United States' growing dependence on automotive technology means the demand for highly skilled auto and diesel truck mechanics will continue to rise. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment in the automotive repair sector will increase 9% from 2012 to 2022; and diesel mechanic demand will grow by 12%. One report projects that we could witness 120,000 new job opportunities in the transportation technician sector over this decade.

However, service managers have said that lagging investment in vocational and industrial arts programs has led to a shortage of skilled auto mechanics at dealerships and repair shops around the country, particularly given the technological advances in auto manufacturing.

Tom Cooper, owner of Phoenix-based Desert Fleet-Serv, told the Phoenix Business Journal that the "single biggest challenge to growth is to find and hire and train and get enough technicians going."

Quality vocational programs will therefore be essential to ensure that America's workforce is equipped with the skills they need for a successful future. Because private sector colleges and universities provide millions of students with access to career-focused learning, they will play a crucial role in meeting this need.

"In our 70 years of training technicians for positions in the transportation sector we cannot remember a time when the industry had a greater demand for our students. We are seeing an increasing number of employers offering signing bonuses, tuition assistance, and enhanced benefits packages to attract the top graduates," said Scott Shaw, CEO and President, Lincoln Educational Services. "While many high schools and colleges have either eliminated or downsized their hands-on training options, Lincoln Tech has continued to expand and enhance our programs to provide employers with career-ready employees. Unlike community colleges and similar schools, Lincoln specializes in hands-on automotive and diesel training which allows us to provide our students with real-world facilities and, in many cases, equipment that comes directly from the companies we support."

"According to Pew Research Center, between 2011 to 2030 10,000 people per day will celebrate their 65th birthday. This represents an increase from 13 to 18 percent of the US population. That is a huge number of Americans who either have retired or are on the verge of retirement," said Brad Kuykendall, CEO, Western Technical College. "The retiring population, coupled with the Department of Labor's estimates of an increased need of 17 percent for automotive and diesel technicians will create a huge shortage of qualified techs. I use the word qualified very carefully. With the rapid advancement of technology (e.g. Bluetooth, interactive and voice activated electronics, auto collision detection, diesel particulate filters, auxiliary power units, etc.), the qualifications are ever changing. It's vital that schools and employers work hand-in-hand to provide top-notch training to a sufficient number of graduates to keep up with the market demand."

About Shortage of Skills

Each month APSCU will profile America's "Shortage of Skills" (SoS) in one key industry. We will examine industries that are critical to America's economic advancement and explain how a well-educated and well-trained workforce can address these issues.

About The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU)

The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU) is a membership organization of accredited institutions of higher education that provide postsecondary education with a career focus. APSCU's work supports thousands of campuses that educate millions of students.

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