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# Bill Reineke

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### Committees

Finance and Appropriations

Financial Institutions, Housing  
and Urban Development

Ways and Means

## **House Bill 429 Sponsor Testimony**

**May 11, 2016 – Senate Transportation, Commerce and Labor Committee**

Chair LaRose, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Cafaro, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share sponsor testimony on House Bill 429. My colleague has already explained the mechanics of this legislation, so I will focus on providing perspective on why this bill fits into the greater workforce development mission we have pursued.

Automotive service technicians provide a crucial service to Ohioans by performing all the repairs that keep our automobiles on the road. As technology continues to rapidly develop, automobiles become much more complicated to maintain. Because of this, technicians require a high degree of training to ensure they can service anything customers bring to them.

The demand for skilled technicians has never been higher. Including retail service technicians in the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher program will help address this significant workforce shortage and allow these employees to turn their job into a career.

House Bill 429 will go a long way in helping our economy grow. The service technician is a highly skilled, highly technical job that requires the same type of intense training as any other profession working with state of the art machinery and computers. It has been identified as an in-demand career field, along with other technical sectors like advanced manufacturing. Right now, students can learn some of these skills in their vocational schools and community colleges. But they will also need the advanced, on-the-job training the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher program provides to remain up to date with the rapid changes in the industry.

To me, it does not get more straightforward than this. We can get people into an in-demand profession that offers good pay, does not come with the heavy baggage of student debt, and can attract individuals from all walks of life who have an interest in cars, trucks, computers and technology. It lines up exactly with the stated goals of the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher program, and the entire plan we have as a state to grow our economy.

This legislation is a step forward in making our workforce more qualified for the opportunities ahead. Lifting this profession will help the entire automotive industry, from manufacturing the parts to assembly to retail sale and service. The industry brings in billions of dollars in tax revenue and keeps our state moving forward.

Thank you Chair LaRose and members of the committee for the opportunity to share testimony with you today. Representative Antani and I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.