



**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 4 before the Senate Transportation,
Commerce and Workforce Committee**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Chairman McColley, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 4. I am Ryan McCall, President of Marion Technical College, located in Marion, Ohio

Marion Technical College's mission is to provide the region's most accessible, supportive, and personal pathway to career success. We are making this mission possible through programming which helps more students graduate, more quickly, with more credentials leading to in demand careers. Last year, Marion Tech graduated 399 students, our largest number in over 5 years. Those 399 student earned 477 credentials. This increase in credentials is partly due to our work ensuring students are receiving meaningful certificates on their way to a degree. In fact, Marion Tech has doubled our percentage of subsidy earned through the awarding of certificates in the last 3 years. While this is good news for our students, it is imperative that our local companies know what types of training are available for their new hires or current employees needing additional skill development.

House Bill 4, sponsored by Representatives Richardson and Robinson, would utilize the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to serve as a "one-stop-shop" for employers needing assistance establishing industry-recognized credentials and certificates, or connecting with existing resources in their community. By allowing the Office of Workforce Transformation to serve as a conduit for businesses seeking certificates that meet specific skills, HB 4 will help connect employers with postsecondary institutions in a more efficient, seamless process. This will benefit our businesses as well as students by ensuring we are delivering the content and training necessary to fill the jobs in the region.

Employers often have a good sense of the credentials their employees will need to stay current in their field, but may not be familiar with how to offer meaningful training that results in an earned credential or certificate. Credentials and continuing education are increasingly important resources for employers to ensure their workforce is highly skilled and able to

succeed in a competitive marketplace. Local employers in Marion, like Wilson Bohannon and RobotWorx, could utilize a service like this to continue to ensure they have the trained workforce they need to stay globally competitive.

While this bill will assist existing employers, new or prospective businesses will also be able to access this expanded resource through OWT, familiarizing them with local educational resources and creating a simple process to navigate. MTC appreciated the safeguards, amended into the bill by the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, that clarified that OWT will not be responsible for approving or developing curriculum or standards for short-term certificates or credentials. Rather, OWT will serve as a liaison between employers and educational providers to ensure that industry needs are being met to best serve the workforce needs. I applaud Representatives Richardson and Robinson for advancing this bi-partisan bill that serves as one more tool to help Ohio meet the workforce needs of our employers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share MTC's support of House Bill 4. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.