
RAMTEC

Testimony before the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

Substitute House Bill 4

October 9th, 2019

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Substitute House Bill 4 today. My name is Ritch Ramey. I recently retired from teaching after having spent the last 38 years in manufacturing and manufacturing education. The last 32 with Tri-Rivers Career Center and Marion Technical College as an engineering technology, certified Yaskawa Motoman Industrial Robotics and Parker Industrial Hydraulics instructor. In 2017 I successfully applied for and gained approval for FANUC and Yaskawa Motoman Industrial Robotics credentials. RAMTEC has successfully certified more than 500 adults, teachers and students in these two industrial credentials. This school year I applied for Parker Industrial Hydraulics, FANUC CNC and FANUC Robotics iRVision.

I am excited to explain the details of my support for legislation to prioritize and help streamline Ohio's process for creating new job training certificates and industry-recognized credential programs. Industry as well as secondary and post-secondary educational institutions are championing the new emphasis on industrial credentialing to further develop and prepare our existing and future workforce.

Ohio is faced with a workforce crisis. There are companies and factories across the state facing skilled workforce shortages. 14 of our 15 graduating Seniors from our Tr-Rivers Career Center's RAMTEC facility in Marion have already earned great career starting jobs as maintenance, robotic and engineering technicians in firms across central Ohio. Companies are no longer looking for communities with tax incentives and inexpensive utilities because they know that will not guarantee them a highly trained and skilled workforce. They look to our program for their hiring solutions because we offer our students more than \$8,000 worth of industrial certification in the Robotics, CAD, Advanced Electronics and Hydraulics.

I recently participated in the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute's national meeting to develop a micro-credentialing compliance program for an Industry 4.0 pathway for the new Certified Robotics Systems Specialist (CRSS). 10 of the nation's leaders in the Robotics and Automation industry participated and identified the 24 micro-credentials necessary to become a CRSS. Currently only 5 credentials are on the Ohio approved list of credentials for CTE. We must modify the current process to adapt to industrial 4.0 changes more effectively and efficiently to enable Ohio's workforce to meet the needs of our ever advancing manufacturing community.

House Bill 4 will allow businesses to establish relationships with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) who will serve as a centralized point of contact to communicate their workforce needs to other government agencies and training programs around the state.

This bill when enacted will enable OWT to perform the task of connecting businesses to existing industry-recognized credential and certificate programs, as well as serving as a liaison with ODE and ODHE. This will give businesses greater input into the credential development process and a straightforward way to communicate their needs. OWT will also serve as a liaison between companies and ODE and ODHE during the creation of new certification and credential programs, and help make the process as easy as possible for businesses to bring new employment opportunities to the Ohio workforce.

I have submitted for industrial credentials before the committee and it is very time consuming to get all the required information from business because they run very lean manufacturing companies, and this can be quite time consuming for them. We have worked with Honda, FT Precision, Whirlpool Corporation, GE Aircraft, Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Robotics Industrial Association, Advanced Robotic Manufacturing, FANUC Robotics, Yaskawa Motoman Robotics, US Yachiyo, Crown Equipment Services, Parker Hydraulics, FANUC iRvision and FANUC CNC to get credentialing approved. While many of these businesses currently have to spend valuable time on figuring out the process, this bill will allow them to simply go straight to OWT, who will walk them through the process and make it as easy as possible.

House Bill 4 will not make any changes to the current methods and standards for creating certificate and credentialing programs, but it will enable OWT to be a resource for businesses to expedite the process so we can get more employment training options to the Ohio workforce as efficiently as possible.

I urge the committee to approve House Bill 4 and allow Ohio companies and educational institutions to do what they do best. Manufacturing will continue to lead the action if given a skilled workforce due to this bill. Educational instructors, leaders and institutions will adopt best practices create the latest and greatest educational and training programs to creates a pipeline of skilled workers to this companies so that Ohio's unemployment will continue to set records on unemployment rates. I urge you to approve House Bill 4. Thank you for your time today.

I would again like to thank the Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee for allowing me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have today.

Respectfully,

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