



Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to present sponsor testimony on HB 181.

HB 181 will break down barriers for Ohioans obtaining recognized apprenticeships with private sector businesses, by requiring licensing boards to recognize applicants who complete registered apprenticeships.

Currently, the path to earning licensure for occupations often requires exponential time and money to obtain.

- This bill solves the problem by allowing an alternative pathway to obtaining a license by allowing government approved private sector created apprenticeships to fulfill costly licensing requirements.
- A business can file either with the state of Ohio or United States Department of Labor to become an approved apprenticeship program.

Ohioans are seeking opportunities to experience the Freedom to Work. Rather than paying thousands of dollars for a year of the state's required education, apprentices will be able to earn money while they train with a private sector company in need of their talent. This reform helps individuals by giving them a chance to earn a paycheck while they work towards obtaining their license. Studies have shown that businesses receive a larger return on investment from employees who have completed apprenticeship training, encouraging them to hire more employees and creating more work opportunities.

The bottom line is that apprenticeships are a cost-effective and expedited way for workers to receive training, ultimately solving the workforce shortage we have in our communities and removing barriers to entry, especially for young and low-income individuals who want to enter the workforce.

These apprenticeship programs must include both hands-on training and education hours in order to be approved by the US Department of Labor or the state of Ohio, thus already fulfilling licensure requirements.

Last General Assembly, the Economic & Workforce Development Committee heard sponsor and proponent testimony on this legislation. We worked with the professional engineers to remove them from the bill, along with boiler operators. Proponents included Americans for Prosperity,

Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio, Opportunity Solutions Project, and Small Business Consultants of Ohio.

I am happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have at this time.