



**Representative Lisa Sobecki  
House District 45**

---

**H.B. 129: CDL Student Aid Program Testimony  
March 10, 2021**

Good afternoon. It is great to be back in the Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch, and members of the Ohio House Economic and Workforce Development Committee; thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill 129, with my joint sponsor Representative Jim Hoops, to establish the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program. Last GA, our bill was House Bill 386 and although it only had two hearings, the bill had bi-partisan co-sponsors and received broad support from the trucking industry.

Multiple industries across Ohio rely on commercial trucks and Ohio has a shortage of qualified employees with a CDL license to fill open jobs. House Bill 129 will incentivize individuals to pursue a CDL by providing them a grant and a loan administered by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to help cover the costs. In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements such as clean driving record and have passed a recent drug test. Applicants must be an Ohio resident in order to qualify and must agree to be employed in the state and be a resident of the state of Ohio for a minimum of one year after completing their CDL coursework. The purpose of this requirement is to protect the State of Ohio's investment.

Driving around, whether it be in Northwest Ohio, or on my trip down to the Statehouse, there are no shortage of signs or billboards, looking for truck drivers. These jobs are included on the Ohio Means Jobs "In-Demand" jobs listing and there is a lot of our economy which still relies on the trucking industry.

Being a truck driver is a good career with great pay and great benefits and the industry is critical to the success of our economy. The Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program will remove financial barriers which stand in the way of someone obtaining their CDL and help produce qualified candidates to fill jobs the trucking industry badly needs.

Thank you for again for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill 129 and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.