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State Representative

43rd District

Sponsor Testimony, March 15th 2022

H.B. 197

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 197.

HB 197 is needed now more than ever. The nation is not only facing supply chain issues, but is also adjusting to new federal requirements for individuals seeking a CDL. As of February 7th, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration now requires new drivers to receive Entry-Level Driver Training from a provider listed on a federal training provider registry. This new requirement could increase training costs and provide additional barriers for individuals seeking to obtain a CDL.

HB 197 will allow businesses to invest in their employees and ensure that they are able to meet these new requirements. By increasing training opportunities, this legislation will help address the growing demand for truck drivers throughout the state. The US Department of Labor places the median annual salary for truck drivers at nearly \$50,000 with the potential to grow as high as \$100,000 as drivers gain experience.

Not only can these tax credits go towards helping employees obtain their CDL, it will also encourage employees to invest in developing additional skills that will allow them to gain lifelong employment. These skills will be transferable within the trucking industry and other industries that require heavy-duty vehicle operators.

HB 197 invests in Ohio's workforce and keeping our roads safe. We need these skilled drivers to keep our shelves stocked and our economy moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 197. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.