



State Representative Mike Duffey, 21<sup>st</sup> District

**Sponsor Testimony – Rep. Duffey**  
**HB 98 (Duffey, Boggs) – Address Career Information Presentations to Students**

Ohio House – Education and Career Readiness Committee – March 14, 2017

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the House Education and Career Readiness committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 98. This bill would establish minimum access standards for universities, trade schools, employers, and military recruiters to present information at least two (2) times per year to students in grades 9-12.

At a Columbus Metropolitan Club forum two years ago, a recruiter for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center informed the audience that the system had 1,500+ entry-level jobs available that did not require a college education, but which could not be filled, primarily due to lack of applicants.

At the same forum, an official from the Ohio State Building and Construction Trades Council indicated his member trade schools were having difficulty reaching Ohio high school students to discuss the rewarding careers and six-figure wages available in the construction trades because school districts were at times unwelcoming and refused access to setup an informational table in the school for students.

This got me thinking: What are the standards Ohio uses to establish minimum access within our districts to various recruiters (college, trade, employer, military) of high school students? The answer is Ohio has no real minimum standard today, other than ORC 3313.471, which bars school districts from restricting military recruiters any more than other recruiters. In other words, if a school district does not allow *\*any\** recruiters into their schools, then they *\*don't\** have to allow the military either.

For universities, trade schools and employers, there is no standard. Schools may *\*completely refuse\** to offer access to students and there is no appeals process. As a result, various recruiters may have simply given up trying to get access to talk to high school students. This is an unacceptable minimum standard.

Therefore, our legislation would, for the first time, establish minimum access standards for recruiters to communicate with students in grades 9-12 in Ohio, providing a statutory right to present information at least two (2) times per year – a requirement that may be satisfied by providing modest common area access for presentation of informational materials or by scheduling a general educational or career fair.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I'd like to yield the podium to our colleague, Representative Boggs, to further discuss this bill. Afterward, we would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.