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Ohio House of Representatives House Education and Career Readiness Committee HB 154

Testimony of Kent Trofholz Executive Director, Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools June 20, 2017

Good morning/afternoon, Chairman Brenner and members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. My name is Kent Trofholz, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools (OACCS). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB154, which provides loans and grants for CDL training.

OACCS applauds the recent introduction of bills designed to increase the number of Ohioans who work in the trucking and heavy equipment industries. These bills are intended to make it easier, especially for young people, to obtain their Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

As you know, member schools of the Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools have been providing CDL training for several decades. Doris Young, owner and operator of the Great Lakes Truck Driving School, has been in the truck driving industry for over 30 years; Fortis College in Cuyahoga Falls has been in operation for almost 50 years while offering a CDL training program for the past three years, and Daymar College's Columbus Campus is in the process of introducing a CDL program for the Central Ohio market. All of the aforementioned schools work closely with Ohio employers and boast nearly 100% job placement rates. Demand for CDL trained drivers routinely outnumber available prospective employees.

HB154, when enacted, will undoubtedly address the shortage Ohio employers are experiencing for trained CDL drivers. HB154 is a part of a comprehensive effort to address current challenges facing Ohio businesses. HB154 is one piece of addressing the known problems in our State's growing economy. The Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools strongly support these measures and encourages the Department of Higher Education to do the same.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing support for the students of our schools, our Association and sector of higher education. Any questions you may have can be directed to my attention at ktrofholz@ohiocareercolleges.org.