



**OHIO**

February 14, 2018

Representative Mike Duffey  
Chair, Ohio House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Duffey:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio (NFIB/Ohio), I am writing in support of House Bill 110 (HB 110) legislation currently pending before your committee that will expand opportunities under the college credit plus program. HB 110 proposes to create additional opportunities for Ohio high school students by adding United States Department of Labor certified apprenticeship programs as a new option for those looking to supplement their high school education.

Apprenticeship programs often provide excellent training and supplemental career pathways for students who decide their passion is learning a skill or trade, not necessarily pursuing a diploma from an institution of higher education. Arguably today, too many high school students are funneled into a system that is not their ideal fit. An unfortunate occurrence for some is after attending for a brief time; they realize it is not for them, and they are saddled with student loan debt. Importantly, HB 110 also permits students, who so choose, to put their apprenticeship training toward college credit.

HB 110 recognizes the varying wants of Ohio's students and the evolving landscape of Ohio's skilled workforce needs. Whether it is the oil and gas play in Eastern Ohio, repair and maintenance of complex machinery, or the growth in hi-tech manufacturing, the skills needed to obtain employment in these and other fields are benefitted by onsite training and development. Local employers are well suited to fill this role and provide students with excellent opportunities to position them for meaningful, well-compensated employment upon graduation.

Ohio's Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation mission statement "is to grow Ohio's economy by developing a skilled workforce, promoting effective training programs, and connecting Ohio employers with qualified workers." House Bill 110 certainly aligns with the goal of this workforce agency. It also ties to the state's attainment goal of 65 percent of Ohioans ages 25-64 having a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace, by 2025.

NFIB/Ohio believes the expansion of the college credit plus program to add apprenticeship programs is good public policy and will ultimately lead to helping employers find new highly skilled Ohioans for job vacancies. For these reasons, we support HB 110. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher J. Ferruso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher J. Ferruso  
Legislative Director

cc: Representative Christina Hagan

National Federation of Independent Business — OHIO

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