



Ohio House of Representatives

Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

3-7-2018

HB 166 / Proponent Testimony

Testimony by Anthony M. Huffman, Ed.D., OTC Director, Washington County Career Center

Chairman Duffy, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Ohio House of Higher Education Committee, my name is Tony Huffman and I am here to speak in favor of HB 166. I am currently Director of Adult Technical Training at Washington County Career Center (WCCC) in Marietta, Ohio.

WCCC offers:

1. 10 full-time programs in the fields of medical, industrial, and information technology.
2. 6 part-time programs in the fields of medical, industrial, and information technology.
3. Customized training to local industry.

Our local workforce niche includes providing postsecondary one-year certificate graduates who occupy the majority of employed medical assistants at Memorial Health System; the majority of employed surgical technologists at Camden Clark, WVU Medicine; and chemical plant-based industrial workers (chemical operators, instrumentation & electricity technicians, and industrial maintenance technicians) in our polymer zone of the Mid-Ohio Valley, including companies like Solvay-Cytec, DuPont, Kraton, and Chemours. Additionally, WCCC has a robust industrial customized training package which allows local companies to upskill their incumbent workers.

Reasons to support H.B. 166:

1. Ohio Technical Centers are governed by Ohio Department of Higher Education. Ohio Technical Centers comply with requirements similar to those of other Ohio institutions of higher education. For example:
 - a. Entering data through the Higher Education Information System
 - b. Clery Act compliance
 - c. Perkins grant participation and compliance
2. Ohio Technical Centers are a part of the University System of Ohio, allowing graduates to use credit earned at Ohio Technical Centers to further their education at Ohio's public two- and four-year colleges using either Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs), The One Year Option, or one of many bilateral articulation agreements.
3. Postsecondary students at Ohio Technical Centers should be eligible for Ohio-supported needs-based financial aid which is available to those attending community and four-year colleges.

4. Ohio Technical Centers have outstanding retention, graduation, and placement rates.
5. Ohio will need to rely heavily on credentials and certificates available at Ohio Technical Centers for the state to have a reasonable chance to achieve the 2025 Attainment Goal “65 by 2025.”
6. Accreditation and federal Pell-eligible programs: Similar to Ohio community colleges and four-year institutions, WCCC is accredited and offers Pell-eligible program. WCCC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges out of Arlington, VA and WCCC offers 10 Pell-eligible programs.

I encourage you to support this bill and am happy to answer any questions.