



STATE SENATOR
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33RD DISTRICT

Senate Finance Committee
Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 140
June 19, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for allowing me to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 140. The goal of this legislation is to help train skilled workers and provide targeted assistance to Ohio's business community. This bill is the result of meetings with business leaders, workers, and several chambers of commerce throughout the state.

No matter where I go, the number one priority for businesses is ensuring that we have a strong workforce for the future. As legislators, we know Ohio is facing a workforce shortage that will only worsen as our population ages. To ensure students have the exposure to alternative career paths, we need to invest more into career tech funding for our schools. SB 140 will invest an additional \$12.5 million annually to the career and tech education fund for the purpose of providing grants to public K-12 schools. The funds can be used to assist students with shop fees, industry credential testing fees, technology support, and to expand upon existing workforce education programs. The Ohio Department of Education would also be able to use the funds for other purposes they deem appropriate to improve access to workforce training opportunities for students.

Through the development of a competitive grant program, the bill also incentivizes the creation of partnerships between regional businesses and higher education institutions in order to develop, expand and promote programs for regional, in-demand jobs. The program will provide grants to two-year community colleges and regional campuses of four-year institutions that offer associate's degrees and industry credential programs. The program will be administered by the Department of Higher Education with grants requiring a dollar-for-dollar match between the institution and the business.

SB 140 also provides targeted assistance to businesses by investing \$50 million over the next two years into programs that will assist with business expansion. These are good programs businesses that need nominal funds to carry out their mission.

An additional \$10 million each fiscal year will be invested in the Minority Business Direct Loan Program and Assistance Centers to make sure that we are helpful to minority entrepreneurs when they're trying to get a business up and running.

\$5 million in each fiscal year will go toward brownfield redevelopment because when a property is impacted by environmental contamination, lending institutions are often hesitant to provide financing to redevelop the site. We need to make sure our state is investing enough to incentivize companies to develop our brownfield sites that will, in turn, boost economic growth.

Lastly, an additional \$10 million in each fiscal year will go to the newly created Sector Partnership Grant Program. This program is modeled after the Pennsylvania Industry Partnership Grant Program, in which grant funds are provided to industry partners that prioritize employer-driven, advanced skills training that brings together multiple employers, workers, and worker representatives in targeted industry clusters. This program will increase worker skills, wages, and advancement opportunities while assisting companies in funding common training and development of critical skills.

Again, thank you for allowing me to come testify on this important piece of legislation. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.