

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

Retail Merchants
The voice of retail since 1922

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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
Chairman
House Finance Committee
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Oelslager:

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants and our 7,000 plus members, I write to express our strong support for House Bill 2.

A skilled and trained workforce is essential for growing Ohio's economy. For many years, our members have invested countless dollars, time, and resources to train not only new employees, but their existing workers as well. Employers make these investments to ensure their workers have the skills they need to meet the demands of their industry and are acclimated to the most up-to-date technology. Many of our members have developed their own training programs many of which are entirely self-funded by their respective industries. The additional financial support for industry-recognized credentials, training reimbursement, and industry sector partnerships contained in House Bill 2 is welcomed by our membership and will certainly benefit Ohio's workers, employers, and communities.

In summary, House Bill 2 is a much needed tool for Ohio businesses to remain competitive and prosper in today's job market. We applaud the sponsors for bringing forth the legislation and urge support from members of the committee. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alex T. Boehnke
Manager of Public Affairs
The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants