Senate Finance Committee

H.B. 2 Proponent Testimony

Dr. Joseph Glavan, Alliance for Working Together (AWT) Board Member

November 5, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide support of H.B. 2 and the funding it provides for workforce development in Ohio.

I have the unique position of being able to see the positive impact H.B. 2 can have from both the business and education perspective.  As a board member for Alliance for Working Together (AWT), I am able to view the benefits from the Ohio employer perspective. The AWT consortium includes over 100 member manufacturing companies all engaged to work toward the sustainability of manufacturing in our community. AWT works to create awareness and interest in manufacturing careers, increase enrollment in training programs, to make sure curriculum for those programs is what manufacturers need, and to make sure those in the industry have the support they need.

In addition to working with AWT, I am also on the executive board for The Ohio Association of Comprehensive and Compact Career-Technical Schools (CCS) and I am able to view the benefits from the Ohio K-12 student and educational institution perspective. CCS represents over 42 Compact and Comprehensive career-technical planning districts in Ohio which provide Career Technical Education programing for secondary education level students that focus on workforce development.

While the credential reimbursements is an amazing benefit, I would like to focus my comments today on industry sector partnerships and the ability for H.B. 2 to support those partnerships as they look to provide a framework that will allow TechCred to be fully maximized and create a uniform and unified Career Pathway for individuals entering the Ohio Workforce that ultimately leads to an increase of apprenticeships in the state of Ohio.

AWT is an excellent example of what is possible when industry sector partnerships operate effectively.  Through a collaboration of business, local government, and educational institutions, AWT is leading the charge in Northeast Ohio to align K-12, Higher Education, and business into one seamless pathway for employee development and retention in Ohio. We are currently in process of developing the AWT Apprenticeship, which would allow manufactures in Northeast Ohio, regardless of size, to have a curriculum of the apprenticeship model that is designed by northeast Ohio businesses for the exact workforce needs of northeast Ohio Businesses. We are also working to better align our training and create an AWT pre-apprenticeship program that can be utilized by northeast Ohio schools.  Through support provided by potential funds from H.B. 2, we are hopeful to finalize our AWT apprenticeship model and also assist employers in providing the educational component that many times they are unable to provide themselves, through a unique combination of higher ed and business led instruction.

I am excited to see the progress that is being made in Ohio through the workforce transformation initiatives that is being led by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted.  I believe that H.B. 2 continues that transformation through helping better equip our workforce and also providing funds to help align our career pathways. Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have for me today.