



**April 5, 2022**

**Ohio House Committee on Higher Education and Career Readiness**

**RE: Support for HB 514**

Chair Lanese, Ranking Member Ingram, and Committee Members:

Thank you for hearing HB 514 and for your leadership in Ohio's workforce development.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation's premier provider of hands-on, project-based STEM curriculum and professional development for teachers in engineering, biomedical science, and computer science. Our students are high achievers from Ohio and across the country. Our teachers represent the very best of their profession.

In Ohio, we have nearly 750 programs led by nearly 4,500 certified PLTW teachers. It is with them in mind and the many thousands of students they teach that we enthusiastically support HB 514.

We believe HB 514 will help fill the talent pipeline for in-demand STEM teachers, create opportunities for PLTW students across the nation, and incentivize new opportunities with our industry partners.

As you know, there is an ongoing teacher shortage in Ohio and across the country. This problem is exacerbated in high-demand disciplines like math and science. PLTW strives to support its network through a training guarantee – ensuring that even if a trained teacher leaves a school in our network, we will train a replacement at no cost to the school. This still requires certified teachers coming to us through the schools they work for, and there is a growing need to attract and retain high-quality teachers. HB 514 creates an excellent incentive for students who are considering entering the teaching profession in a STEM field.

Additionally, PLTW sees HB 514 as an excellent opportunity for high-performing students in our programs. They are the students this bill was written to attract and retain, the top performers of their high school cohort with their sights set on a STEM degree and a rewarding career in a STEM profession. This bill would open opportunities for PLTW students across the country to come to Ohio to learn and work.

Finally, PLTW partners with many companies in Ohio that would benefit from an internship tax credit in HB 514. We work with companies like Verizon and Arcelor Mittal among many others, and we support this effort to create new incentives for work-based learning through internships. PLTW students will come equipped for these new internships with transportable and technical skills that will continue to sharpen Ohio's competitive edge.

We applaud Representative Cross and his colleagues for sponsoring HB 514. It is an innovative approach to attracting and retaining top talent for Ohio's future and will benefit the full, nationwide network of PLTW students.

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**Empowering students to thrive in an evolving world.**