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President  
**RYAN AUGSBURGER**

March 28, 2023

The Honorable D.J. Swearingen  
Chairman  
House Economic and Workforce Development Committee  
Ohio Statehouse  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: Senate Bill 1 – Written Proponent Testimony**

Dear Chairman Swearingen:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association is Ohio's largest statewide business association comprised solely of manufacturers. Established in 1910, the OMA's mission is to protect and grow Ohio manufacturing. It represents manufacturers of all sizes in every subsector of the industry. Manufacturing is Ohio's largest economic sector, employing approximately 690,000 Ohioans and contributing more than \$130 billion annually to the state's economy.

The accountability system for education and workforce development is clearly fragmented, and the integration proposed by Senate Bill 1 seeks to repair this system. Senate Bill 1 would rename the Department of Education to the Department of Education and Workforce and make structural changes to allow for greater industry alignment and career preparation for students. Manufacturers understand that any disjointed accountability system can contribute to redundancies, disconnected goals and metrics, and a misalignment of strategy and operations. The alignment between education and workforce development is more important than ever as the state continues to face labor shortages and other workforce challenges.

By establishing the Division of Primary and Secondary Education as well as the Division of Career Technical Education under one central department, this legislation takes significant measures to structurally reform the way that the state approaches education and career readiness. The OMA appreciates the dual-pronged approach contained in Senate Bill 1 to address necessary improvements to education oversight while making a concerted effort to focus on providing students with the resources they will need to enter the workforce. The proposed structure of the Department of Education and Workforce would ensure that K-12 outcomes are rooted in practical, applied learning and create greater accountability results.

The OMA applauds the leadership of the bill sponsor on this issue and urges the committee to support this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsey Short".

Lindsey Short  
Director, Public Policy Services