

Testimony Senate Bill 1

February 14, 2023

Good afternoon Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and Members of the Education Committee and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1.

My name is Carl Pastorella and I live in Tiffin, Ohio. I've worked in industry for 47 years as a Human Resource Professional as a generalist in both the vitreous chinaware industry and the automotive industry. During those 47 years as a generalist my more rewarding/challenging experiences have been in the area of recruitment. However, my most gratifying experiences have been my ability to interface with the educational community. I've spent much time working with our local elementary school, middle school and high school students in programs such as School To Work and the Reach Program and am privileged to volunteer with the Tiffin City Schools on the Business Advisory Council, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and the Northwest Ohio Career Ready Committee.

The reason that I am here today testifying on behalf of Senate Bill 1 is because I've always believed that the school systems primary responsibility is not only to educate students in the general academics but ultimately to prepare students for their future careers.

Having worked in industry with thousands of employees it is obvious that many entering the workforce today lack the fundamental work skills that are required to be successful. The basic requirements being general work ethics, the ability to work collaboratively with others in a team environment, developing problem solving skills as well as the basic soft skills. I believe that some of these skills can and should be reinforced within the educational system as part of the required curriculum.

Today employers are looking for people with a learning orientation no matter what responsibility that the employee takes on. It is a learning mindset that is critical to their success within the organization. Unfortunately today many entering the workforce do not take their responsibility seriously, often quitting their job within the first week of employment or being terminated because they lack the ability to meet the responsibilities associated with being a good employee. The high cost of recruitment and training lost as the result of excessive turnover that employers face is detrimental to Ohio businesses. Employers are ready and willing to adapt to the needs of the changing workforce culture, this process has already begun. The fundamentals of career readiness principles can begin during the very early years of a child's educational career. Implementing a formal system within the current educational system would go a long way in helping to assure the successful careers of our graduates both for those entering the workforce directly as well as those moving on to higher education.

The committees previously mentioned on which I serve are partnering with the Tiffin educational system assisting to prepare students to successfully enter the workforce, however this is not enough. It is essential that the Ohio Board of Education commit to become a driver of the process of reinforcing what is critically necessary for the students to prepare for their future careers. This process currently works well in our local joint vocational school system because

their mission is to prepare students for careers. The problem rests with those students that are not in the vocational school system. There are educators that I work with that believe in the importance of preparing students to enter the workforce and are doing what they can within the existing system however they need the support, resources and time required to fully carry out the process.

I ask that you seriously consider the necessity of Senate Bill 1, which will not only go a long way towards helping Ohio students become not only proud productive employees and in the process become good citizens so that they might have a secure future free of dependence on the system.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1.