

October 1, 2019

The Honorable Matt Dolan Chairman, Ohio Senate Finance Committee Statehouse 1 Capitol Square Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: House Bill 2 Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Dolan:

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of Substitute House Bill 2; legislation that would create the TechCred Program.

Consistently, we hear from our members that they are struggling to fill workforce shortages, as well as find qualified, skilled employees for the openings that they have. We believe that Sub HB 2 will assist employers with filling those workforce shortages as well as "upskilling" their existing workforce.

The process laid out in the House-passed version of Sub HB 2 as it relates to enrollment periods and a review of submitted applications will allow for more competitiveness for these grants, something that our members mentioned was lacking in previous workforce development programs. Additionally, we were pleased to see funding for this program allocated in the Main Operating Budget as opposed to being in a standalone bill.

For these reasons, we urge you to support Sub HB 2. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our support at kboehner@ohiochamber.com or 614-228-4201.

Respectfully,

Kevin Boehner

Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy