



KEY VOTE ALERT

TO: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives

FROM: Kevin Boehner, Director, Small Business and Workforce Policy

RE: Upcoming Floor Vote on House Bill 2

DATE: June 11, 2019

House Bill 2 creates the TechCred program which will assist employers with filling vacancies as well as “upskilling” their existing workforce. Provisions within the bill that we are in support of are:

- Expands the definition of “microcredential” to mean an industry-recognized credential or certificate that an individual may complete in one year or less.
- Allows for an open enrollment period for employers to apply for the grant program.
- Removes the wage requirement that was included in the as-introduced version of the bill but does allow for employers to include potential wage increases in their application.
- Expands the list of organizations that may be members of an industry sector partnership to further the shared goal of meeting the industry cluster’s human resources needs.

The process laid out in the sub-bill as it relates to open enrollment periods will allow for more competitiveness for these grants, something that our members mentioned was lacking in previous programs. Additionally, we are in support of the removal of the wage increase requirement as a component to this program but do believe that having it as an optional part of the application and something to be considered while awarding grants is a positive change.

Workforce development remains a top concern for Ohio’s businesses and we believe that this bill will help to close the skills gap and stem the tide of workforce shortages felt in our state. **The Ohio Chamber of Commerce supports HB 2 because it will give Ohio’s businesses another tool in their toolbox as they tackle workforce issues.**

Most importantly, HB 2 will help businesses that are struggling to fill workforce shortages, as well as find qualified, skilled employees for the openings that they have. **Please be aware that your vote on HB 2 will be reflected in the Ohio Chamber’s General Assembly Voting Record.** If you have any questions about this bill or the Ohio Chamber’s position, please contact me at (614) 228-4201 or kboehner@ohiochamber.com.

WE’RE ALL FOR OHIO.