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Ohio Chamber of Commerce Supports Passage of Senate Bill 166

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Chamber President Steve Stivers today voiced his support for the Senate concurrence vote and passage of Senate Bill 166 (SB 166), legislation which will make it easier for employers to train and employ student workers.

“The state of Ohio has been thoughtful in its efforts to increase interest in technical education through the creation of mentorship programs and creation of industry sector partnerships between employers and their local schools,” Stivers said. “The passage of SB 166 is a crucial next step in that partnership effort. We would like to thank Senator Reineke and Representative Swearingen for their leadership on this important legislation.”

Specifically, Senate Bill 166 creates the Student Pathways to Career Success Grant Program. This program will create financial incentives for businesses to provide work-based learning opportunities for students enrolled in technical programs. The legislation also establishes an Employers Providing Work-Based Learning Pilot Program to incentivize Ohio employers to implement work-based learning programs for high school students interested in career-technical education.

Furthermore, SB 166 seeks to encourage employer participation by authorizing a nonrefundable income tax credit for the employer equal to 15 percent of the wages paid to a student participating in a career-technical education program.

“This legislation is one of the Ohio Chamber’s top ten priority bills because workforce issues are the number one issue facing many Ohio employers,” Stivers said. “If we want a workforce trained in the jobs of tomorrow, we need to ensure we are training our students today, so they are prepared to meet the demand.”

The Ohio Chamber is the state’s leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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