

Submitter: Bridget Quinn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB3552

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3552, which would provide critical support for regional career centers across our state.

It is imperative that our middle and high school students have access to a full range of pathways that prepare them for life after graduation. For many students, career and technical education (CTE) opens doors to meaningful, well-paying work—especially in fields like the skilled building trades, where apprenticeships offer a clear, structured route into high-demand careers.

In our Union Electrical Apprenticeship Programs, the average age of an incoming apprentice is 28. That number tells a story. Many of these individuals spent years in dead-end jobs because they had to enter the workforce immediately after high school. Others tried the college route, only to discover it wasn't the right fit. By the time they find their way to an apprenticeship, they've often lost valuable time and income they can't get back.

Regional career centers can change that. They offer students early exposure to trades and technical careers while they're still in school, giving them the chance to make informed choices sooner. These centers connect education directly with opportunity—and that connection is exactly what many young people need.

House Bill 3552 is a smart, necessary investment in our youth, our workforce, and our future. I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

Bridget Quinn
Workforce Development Coordinator
NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center