

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Kirk Schuring  
Chair, General Government and Agency Review Committee  
Ohio State Senate  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**RE:** Restoration of Appropriation Item 195555, Industry-Recognized Credentials

Dear Chairman Schuring:

On behalf of CompTIA, and the technology companies we represent, we appreciate the opportunity to share our opposition to the removal of appropriation item 195555, which was cut from the "As Introduced" version of HB 166 by the House. This appropriation item would be used to establish a financial assistance program to support students who are enrolled in a post-secondary education or a training provider program that may be completed in less than one year and for which college credit, a certificate, or an industry-recognized credential is awarded.

CompTIA is a non-profit trade association serving as the leading voice of the information technology industry – the driving force behind productivity growth and job creation, representing premier technology companies of all sizes. With approximately 2,000 member companies, 3,000 academic and training partners and more than two million IT certifications issued, CompTIA is dedicated to advancing industry growth through educational programs, market research, professional certifications and public policy advocacy.

Appropriation item 195555 allowed for the Development Services Agency to partner with the Department of Higher Education to invest in upskilling 10,000 Ohioans with new industry certificates in the first year. The \$15 million annual appropriation will support those constituents who are enrolled in training programs that may be completed in under twelve months. CompTIA enthusiastically supports such programs throughout the country. Programs such as this one, encourage students to gain credentials for in-demand jobs now and into the future. We ask that the Ohio Senate includes the restoration of the Industry-Recognized Credentials appropriation to the Senate version of HB 166.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at 630.282.4332 or [amadon@comptia.org](mailto:amadon@comptia.org).

Sincerely,



Alexi Madon  
Director, State Government Affairs  
CompTIA