

March 6, 2019

The Senate Education Committee  
The Honorable Dolores Gresham, Chairman  
744 Cordell Hull Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

As you know, all three of our organizations are dedicated to ensuring that every Tennessee student graduates high school ready for the future. We firmly believe that Tennessee should lead the nation in college and career readiness and our state government should build upon the infrastructure to make that possible.

We are writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 0805, the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act (GIVE) and corresponding budget proposal. The GIVE Act would be a significant and needed investment to increase the number of young adults earning an industry certification and entering a career within one year of high school graduation.

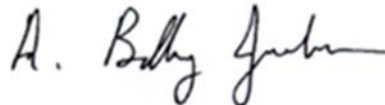
Specifically, the GIVE Act would fully fund the first four courses of dual-enrollment for high school juniors and seniors in high-skill, high-demand career-focused programs of study. It would also provide community grants to invest in growing the capacity of Tennessee schools and communities to deliver work-based learning programs and skills-focused dual-enrollment opportunities. Given the increasing need for a skilled workforce to keep up with our economic gains in Tennessee, this legislation would be a dramatic step forward and we strongly support this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if you have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,



David Mansouri  
President and CEO  
State Collaborative on  
Reforming Education  
(SCORE)



Bradley Jackson  
President and CEO  
Tennessee Chamber of  
Commerce and Industry



Pat Sheehy  
President  
Tennessee Business  
Roundtable