



April 10, 2013

Dear Honorable Members of the House and Senate:

We are writing to urge your support of House Bills 4465 and 4466. These bills will improve Michigan high school graduation requirements so students can have the flexibility to pursue rigorous and relevant career-ready CTE, skilled trades and vocational educational options that count toward a high school diploma. The bills will also clarify the ability to pursue a personalized curriculum developed by the student, parents, teacher and school district to meet a student's specific needs.

Our organizations represent the largest industries in the state and tens of thousands of businesses, both large and small. Simply put, improving the Michigan Merit Curriculum to better include options for CTE-related career paths is a key element to ensuring that a talented future workforce will be available for our industries, and one that Michigan's economy can rely upon.

Currently, Michigan's education system does a great job preparing students for college, but it lacks in providing the same, and equally important, opportunities for rigorous CTE, vocational, skilled trades, and technical training. Michigan needs to do better.

As the demand for highly paid and skilled workers increases, Michigan needs to train tomorrow's workforce to be skilled, motivated, and successful at whatever career they pursue. Doing so is critical to the success of students across our state.

Again, we strongly urge your support of this important legislation to bring about much needed flexibility and remove the one-size-fits-all approach, which will better allow students to pursue rewarding career opportunities that Michigan employers are eager to fill.

Sincerely,

*Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan*

*Home Builders Association of Michigan*

*Michigan Farm Bureau*

*Michigan Grocers Association*

*Michigan Manufacturers Association*

*Michigan Restaurant Association*

*National Federation of Independent Business - Michigan*