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Illinois Career & Technical (Education) Administrators

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House Bill 2170, Senate Amendment #2 - No Position on Merit - Pamela Weber

Senate Amendment #2 to House Bill 2170 is a huge proposal with many moving parts. While we applaud some of those initiatives, we have concerns with others.

Applaud - to mention a few

1. Additional Early Childhood screening and intervention
2. Scholarships and Recruitment for Minority Teachers

Concerns -

1. The number one anthem of this Lame Duck Session seems to be, "How are we going to pay for it?" There are many outstanding programs, like Career & Tech Ed (CTE), throughout the State right now are struggling to continue to deliver services, programs, education and in some instances the basic necessities of life - food, housing, health care. At a time of reduced revenues due to the World Wide Pandemic, we suggest that this is not the time to institute all of the good ideas being presented.
2. This could be 1A instead of #2, still money. The State's Maintenance of Effort (match) to receive the Perkins Federal CTE Money is always a concern. The General Assembly has consistently in recent times appropriated the necessary amount, but actually receiving those funds in the regions, meeting the requirements and time frames for spending becomes challenging....a cash flow problem from the State's end. Each year it seems we run the risk of not meeting the spending deadlines and risk either forfeiting or having to repay the Federal money....millions of dollars. Additional pressure on the State's dwindling revenues would increase the risk.
3. ICTA has traditionally opposed added mandated course requirements for graduation. Each time an additional course is added, it lessens the options for a student to explore other education avenues. It has been well established that not all students can or want to go on to college or university. Former CTE students are a large part of today's essential workers. The young person who became a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) in High School may now be a medical professional in the fight against Covid 19.

The list is endless....auto mechanic, firefighter/EMT, law enforcement, the computer repair person, or on the line in a factory turning out ventilators at break neck speed. These are the essential workers who are keeping our State and Country moving during this difficult time.

Please **reconsider** adding courses for graduation that remove the opportunity for students to chose CTE courses, and possibly find their life's career.

We respect the intent of this legislation and welcome the opportunity to work with all the interested groups to achieve the best outcome for all students in Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

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