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December 7, 1998

The Honorable Richard H. Finan
Chairman
Legislative Service Commission
State House
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Jo Ann Davidson
Vice-Chairman
Legislative Service Commission
77 S. High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear President Finan and Speaker Davidson:

Throughout the 122nd General Assembly, the Legislative Service Commission Study Committee on Job Training and Workforce Development Programs has worked diligently to complete its assigned task. That task being to review all the state's job training and workforce development programs and to formulate a plan to centralize all these programs under one state agency.

The Legislative Service Commission Study Committee on Job Training and Workforce Development Programs held 14 full meetings and five additional executive meetings. The Committee heard testimony from a variety of individuals including 15 state agencies, the National Conference of State Legislatures, members of the Governor's Workforce Development Board, and many other individuals and organizations. In addition, we worked in conjunction with the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor's Workforce Development Board to ensure that both committees were working toward the same goal--improving workforce development and job training in Ohio.

Enclosed are the final recommendations of the Legislative Service Commission Study Committee on Job Training and Workforce Development Programs. We are proud to submit these recommendations to you because we are confident that this report is a solid first step toward a better governance structure and systemic improvements in the opportunity for recipients through Ohio's job training and workforce development system.

VERN RIFFE CENTER 🏛 77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, NINTH FLOOR 🏛 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43266-0342 🏛 TELEPHONE (614) 466-3615

We await your guidance on this very important issue and look forward to the next stage--sitting down with all the appropriate groups, agencies, individuals, and legislators to draft legislation. We understand that this will not be an easy task given the complexities of this issue, but we feel confident that we can work together to improve workforce development and job training in Ohio.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Committee for their dedication and hard work. Specifically, we would like to thank Senator Linda Furney whose vast knowledge on this issue was a great asset to the Committee. We would also like to thank Jim Mermis, the Lieutenant Governor's Chief of Staff and the Governor's top aide on this subject. Lastly, we would like to thank the entire Legislative Service Commission staff for their hard work on this project and especially, Dick Masek, whose institutional knowledge and dedication helped ensure that the Committee completed its task.

Sincerely,

Bill Harris
State Representative
93rd Ohio House District

Robert A. Gardner
State Senator
18th Senate District

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