



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Education Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: June 13, 2018

RE: Concerns with S.B. 1095

I write on behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry to make you aware of our concerns with S.B. 1095, which seeks to expand options for fulfilling the high school graduation requirement. The Committee is scheduled to consider the bill today.

As long as policymakers and the education community have been working to implement graduation requirements there have been ongoing discussions regarding creating a system that best meets the needs of students. Pennsylvania students are a diverse group and therefore graduation requirements can and should, to a certain extent, reflect that diversity. Act 6 of 2017 created alternatives for students enrolled in career and technical education and S.R. 322 directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to further study important issues related to testing and graduation requirement.

We appreciate the intent behind S.B. 1095 but believe it swings the pendulum too far back and risks eroding efforts to add important oversight and accountability to our education system and that help ensure Pennsylvania students have obtained the necessary education and skills to be prepared for a career, higher education or whatever next step they pursue.

We would like to continue discussions on S.B. 1095 and urge the committee to hold off consideration. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-720-5471 with any questions or to discuss.