



January 12, 2022

The Honorable Beth Griffin, Chair
Workforce, Trades and Talent Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Griffin:

Oakland Community College (OCC) strongly believes that the Michigan New Jobs Training (MNJT) Program is an important economic development tool for supporting the creation of new jobs in the State of Michigan. OCC has been an administrator of the program for Oakland County based businesses since the inception of the MNJT Program in Michigan and has received nearly \$12 million authorized in MNJT contracts since 2011. OCC is one of the top colleges using this program and has worked with several employers to provide training and education for newly created positions. This training is critical for business and job growth and provides a much needed support to employers that ensures the workforce is skilled in the areas that are custom to each individual business. OCC currently has over twenty-five MNJT contracts.

OCC supports and encourages the legislature to pass House Bill 5527 to increase the cap of the MNJT Program from \$50 million to \$100 million. While OCC has been successful in maintaining a queue of employers ready to participate with the MNJT Program when funding becomes available under the current cap, increasing the cap will allow attracting and retaining more businesses throughout the state.

OCC utilizes the MNJT Program when partnering with state and local economic development agencies creating *Talent Development Proposals* for companies locating and/or expanding in Oakland County and creating new jobs. In December of 2021, OCC completed *Talent Development Proposals* with project sizes estimated between \$4.3 and \$9.3 Million. The range of these projects vary due to the current program cap and the legislated sunset of the program. Without changes to the current legislation, there is a risk that businesses with plans to expand and create approximately 3,600 jobs may look to take advantage of similar programs outside of Michigan. OCC encourages and requests the legislature to pass House Bill 5527.

Sincerely,

Peter M. Provenzano, Jr.
Chancellor

