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February 25, 2025 Testimony in Support of 2025-H5292

## Dear Esteemed Members of the House Education Committee:

I am the Superintendent of Schools for Johnston Public Schools and have held that position for the last fifteen years. Over the years we have witnessed an increased number of students leaving the district to go to public high schools that offer career and technical programs that meet their interests. This has become a very significant cost to the district and in fact the current budget line in Johnston for these students is nearing four million dollars annually. For a student to be able to pursue a career goal through a CTE program is a great opportunity. Unfortunately, we have had students return to the district who have not been successful in the school that is offering the CTE program. When this occurs, the student is often returned to their home district with few credits and a low GPA and they have advanced to their senior year. The data on that student then becomes the data of the home school district. That data is used in accountability measures for the home district high school when in fact the student was only recently returned. Because of the lack of success, the data becomes detrimental to the home district. If the state is allowing students to go to the schools of their choice and these schools accept the students, then that school should be the owner of that student's data and they should be committed to the student's success. Once a student chooses another school for CTE programming, that student should continue to be a student of that CTE school regardless of their achievement level and the data that is reflective of the student's success or lack of should be reflected in the CTE school's state report card. I urge this Committee to put forth the amendments proposed by Representative Fellela, Serpa, Read and Phillips.

Respectfully submitted

Bernard DiLullo, Jr.

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