

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING AND YOUTH  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

February 20, 1996

Mr. Jeffrey Barcio

[REDACTED]  
Erie, PA 16504

Dear Mr. Barcio:

I received your letter and appreciate your kind words. I want to invite you to continue your contact with me. It is important for me to know of your concerns.

With that in mind, please let me know of any way that I could be of assistance to you. I agree that too often those on welfare find it more economically sound not to work. That must change. But at the same time, new educational and employment projects must be initiated to guarantee that the safety net of social programs are available to the needy. It is a tough prescription for the future, but given the fiscal restraints on the Federal Government and in Harrisburg, I believe it is reality that must be faced.

I hope I can rely upon you to contribute to that effort of governmental reform by keeping me informed of your problems and of your ideas. Frankly, that is how the vision care idea started: concerned citizens making their voices heard on an issue that was of importance to them.

Again, thank you for your letter and its sentiment. I hope to hear from you again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Tom Scrimenti  
State Representative

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG, 1999

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DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE  
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PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.  
Erie County Technical School  
Kenneth D. Frantz Education Complex  
8500 Oliver Road  
Erie, PA 16509-4699

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for writing to me about the concerns you have about the Commonwealth's Vocational-Technical Education Legislative Agenda. I appreciate the interest you have in this topic and the information you have provided. I also want to commend you for the success your institution has been experiencing.

As you have mentioned in your letter, there currently exists a series of House and Senate Bills aimed at providing greater opportunity, funding, and incentive to people within the Commonwealth to seek vocational and technical training. As Pennsylvania has historically been a leader in the manufacturing and technical industries, it is important that programs like yours continue to grow. Also, as we move into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a better-educated and skilled job market will continue to be necessary to keep the spirit of competition alive in Pennsylvania, as well as across the country. In response to these recognized demands, the State Legislature has introduced legislation in both chambers. The Senate Education Committee is currently reviewing each of the Senate Bills you have mentioned in your letter. The House has prepared its own very similar version of these Senate Bills. Four of these bills are also currently being reviewed in committee. Two of the House Bills you mentioned have had no legislative action; they have not yet been introduced. As these pieces of legislation continue to move through the legislative process, I will certainly keep your comments in mind. I will continue to look for the bills that have not yet been introduced in the House and decide if they are bills I would like to cosponsor.

Again, I want to thank you for your letter of information and encouragement. I also want to commend you for the great service your institution provides to the Commonwealth and the citizens of Erie County. If I can be of any further assistance to you on this matter, or any other matter in the future, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti  
State Representative

/dje



MAR 19 1999

March 16, 1999

Representative Thomas Scrimenti  
25B E Wing  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

As you are certainly aware, the shortage of skilled, technical workers is an important economic development issue for northwest Pennsylvania. Repeatedly employers from all business sectors express their concern about the shortage of skilled workers. Business and education are working on viable solutions to this problem. As an educator, I am certain that vocational-technical education, and the Erie County Technical School (ECTS) in particular, can play a major role in resolving this problem.

Over the past seven years, the interest in vocational-technical education at ECTS has nearly doubled from 500 students in the early 1990's to nearly 900 students this year. Business and industry has responded as well by hiring our graduates. We claim a 70% placement rate right into the workforce, while another 25% of our students matriculate into post-secondary training.

To insure that vocational education continues to be a viable resource for Erie County employers, I am asking you to support our legislative effort. The effort entails six bills that strengthen ECTS's ability to respond to the employment needs of the area. Accompanying this letter is a summary of the bills and their prime sponsors. Let me encourage you to become a co-sponsor of all of these bills. If you need additional information about these bills, then please contact me and I will be happy to assist you. You may also join me at a legislative information session at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

I have shared this legislative agenda with the ECTS Board of Directors and the superintendents of our ten sending school districts. Both parties wholly support the agenda. I have also received an endorsement from our General Advisory Council, a representative group of business and industry leaders. The ECTS is doing well, but we could do better. You can help us to do more for Erie County employers by supporting the Vocational Education Legislative Agenda.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Aldo R. Jackson'.

Aldo R. Jackson, Ph.D.  
Director

Enclosures: Vocational-Technical Education Legislative Agenda  
Brochure: Erie County Technical School



## Vocational-Technical Education Legislative Agenda

1. A bill to increase the factors in the vocational funding formula and increase the money allocated to the formula by \$13.2 million.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator James Rhoades  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative Jess Stairs

2. A bill to establish a \$7 million pilot program to reward districts which meet or exceed their AVTS enrollment goals as defined by their local articles of agreement.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator Robert Tomlinson  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative Jess Stairs

3. A bill to provide \$10 million to allow the state to match up to 50% of the cost of local vocational education equipment purchases.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator Jeffrey Piccola  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative Jerry Nailor

4. A bill to allow area vocational-technical schools to establish capital reserve accounts.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator Robert Jubelirer  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative J. Scot Chadwick

5. A bill to increase funding for adult vocational education programs by \$2.6 million.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator Mary Jo White  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative Fred McIlhattan

6. A bill to establish a state tax credit program for businesses which make donations to vocational-technical education programs.

Senate Prime Sponsor—Senator Vincent Fumo  
House Prime Sponsor—Representative Jerry Stern