



February 12, 2026

Rep. Robert Duvall
Economic Development & Workforce Investment Committee
702 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Representative Duvall,

On behalf of the members of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I write to express our support for HB 498, legislation that establishes the Adult Workforce Diploma Pilot Program, as amended with HCS 1. This bill represents an innovative, accountability-driven approach to helping Kentucky adults earn meaningful credentials that lead to family-sustaining careers while strengthening Kentucky's workforce.

HB 498 makes several important advances. It creates a performance-based funding model where approved providers receive milestone payments only when adult learners achieve defined outcomes - earning credits, obtaining workforce credentials, and completing their diploma.

Equally important, HB 498 addresses a persistent barrier to Kentucky's economic growth. According to KYSTATS, over 10 percent of Kentucky's working-age adults lack a high school diploma, and our labor force participation rate of 58.1 percent remains below the national average. By combining diploma completion with industry-recognized workforce credentials and employability skills training, this program offers adult learners a comprehensive pathway to employment that traditional GED programs alone cannot provide.

By grounding provider accountability in demonstrated student outcomes rather than enrollment alone, HB 498 ensures that state investment flows only when results are achieved. Similar performance-based workforce diploma programs operating in Indiana and Ohio demonstrate that adult learners can successfully complete high school alongside workforce credentials when provided flexible, career-focused pathways.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing policy that expands opportunities for adult learners while protecting taxpayer investment. HB 498 provides Kentucky adults with a meaningful pathway to credential attainment and economic mobility. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every Kentuckian has access to the education and skills they need for a stronger future.

Respectfully,

Brigitte Blom
President and CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence