



**House Education and Career Readiness Committee
Substitute Senate Bill 8 Testimony
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
June 13, 2017**

Good afternoon, Chairman Brenner, Vice Chairman Slaby, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the House Education in support of Substitute Senate Bill (Sub. SB) 8. My name is Thomas Ash, Director of Governmental Relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). Joining me today for this testimony and in answering your questions are Damon Asbury, Director of Legislative Services for the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and Barbara Shaner, Advocacy Specialist for the Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO).

On behalf of the members of our three organizations, we urge you to favorably report Sub. SB 8, a bill that would provide an alternative for school districts for utilizing Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) funds. Sub. SB 8 offers districts the opportunity to access OSFC funds for smaller projects when it is not advantageous for the district to participate in a full facilities replacement or remodeling project.

Sub. SB 8 is permissive and gives districts more flexibility for utilizing OSFC funds for things such as security, IT infrastructure, or other projects already permitted under a full scale facilities project. It should also be noted that districts will still have an obligation to match any state funding. We appreciate efforts to give districts more tools for meeting students' needs such as this new option in Sub. SB 8.

Thank you for your consideration. We'll be happy to address your questions.