



**Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
House Bill 512 Testimony
John Carey, Chancellor, Ohio Department of Higher Education
February 27, 2018**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony today in support of House Bill 512.

Over the past several years, the General Assembly and Governor Kasich have worked together to find innovative ways to advance education in the State of Ohio. Some of this work has spanned across administrations and term limits in what has been a continuous effort. House Bill 512's creation of the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement is the next step toward reaching the goal of better educating our primary, secondary, and postsecondary-students, along with Ohio's adult workforce, and raising Ohio's economic prosperity in the 21st Century.

A prior example of this type of effort took place in 2007, when the functions, powers and duties of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents were restructured. This restructuring and transfer of duties helped to streamline the work of what is now known as the Department of Higher Education, and improved the efficiency of the Department and the accountability of the Chancellor. In 2012, the Department of Higher Education and the Ohio Department of Education began sharing the same building in an effort to better bridge the gap between K-12 and higher education and break down silos within and between the Departments.

One example of recent collaboration between the three offices that are being realigned in this bill is the development of the Regional Workforce Collaboration Model. With this model, stakeholders from industry, education, higher education, and others shared best practices for building local and regional partnerships to prepare students for careers. The creation of the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement goes even further in streamlining Ohio's education system and spurring cooperation to ensure a seamless Pre-K to career experience for our students.

I'd like to point out that while this is by necessity a large bill due to the many code sections that are affected by the restructuring, the intent of House Bill 512 is simple: a realignment and transfer of duties to the Director of the Department of Learning and Achievement. The current functions, programs and initiatives of each of the individual offices will continue under this new structure and the State Board of Education, Superintendent, and Department of Education will continue to exist for prescribed purposes. This legislation will foster much needed day-to-day

collaboration between the primary/secondary, post-secondary and workforce arms of the State's education system, with three teams now working as one under a single chain of command. From a higher education perspective, I believe the sector's voice will be strengthened, not diminished. The Legislative Service Commission's bill analysis does a great job of outlining the restructuring, and I hope you have all had the opportunity to read it. We must look ahead to the future state of education in Ohio and beyond, and embrace the changes that are necessary to ensure that we are prepared to succeed in that environment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about my support of House Bill 512. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.