

**Interested Party Testimony-House Finance Committee
HB 166-State Operating Budget
May 6, 2019**

Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee– Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 166, the State Operating Budget, in support of BioEnterprise’s funding request which would appropriate \$150,000 GRF in each fiscal year within the Development Services Agency for BioEnterprise to expand the Health IT Community Classroom Demonstration Project.

My name is Grady Burrows and I serve as the Director of Health IT Talent for BioEnterprise.

BioEnterprise drives healthcare innovation in Northeast Ohio through the formation, commercialization, recruitment and acceleration of bioscience and digital health companies, specifically medical device, biopharmaceutical and healthcare software, services and health IT firms. We do this by helping startups find investment capital and funding, providing management support, conducting market research, connecting startups with C-level talent, building a diverse health IT talent pipeline and providing space for them to grow.

Businesses assess the availability of a diverse and qualified local workforce when deciding to stay in an area, expand or relocate. Across the state, the growth of Information Technology (IT) jobs outpaces the supply of skilled, local, entry-level workers. The Health IT Community Classroom demonstration project provides local high school students, who otherwise do not have access, with courses in computer coding, giving students necessary skills and knowledge to make them better equipped to succeed in continuing their education after high school.

In 2018, nearly 60% of all jobs in Ohio (3.3 million) required some education or training beyond high school.ⁱ An increase in statewide demand for IT workers and professionals is projected to grow over the next five years; in fact, a 12% increase in demand is expected for software developers, one of the top ten fastest-growing jobs in Ohio which requires skills and knowledge in basic computer languages, such as Java, as well as broad computing concepts that include algorithms, data, programming and software engineering.ⁱⁱ

On a regional basis, a recent report from Team Northeast Ohio (Team NEO), the regional business and economic development organization, states that 65% of in-demand jobs by 2020 will require education or training beyond high school, yet only 54% of current Northeast Ohioans could qualify for those jobs.

Similar to statewide trends, Information Technology is among the top occupational groups expected to grow rapidly in Northeast Ohio, but growth will outpace the supply of entry-level workers.ⁱⁱⁱ In Cuyahoga County, 52% of high schools do not have AP Computer Science Programs, and nearly half of the county's high school students are left without access to any computer classes to prepare them for in-demand, high-paying computer science-related jobs. In 2018, only 1% of the state's high school students took the AP Computer Science A exam. Among them, less than 10% were African American or Hispanic-Latino. Having a vibrant talent pipeline with a pool of diverse and qualified talent is among the top factors businesses consider in staying in an area, expanding or relocating.

BioEnterprise, in collaboration with the Northeast Ohio Health IT Talent Collaborative, launched the "Community Classroom" pilot initiative in the fall of 2018 to provide after-school computer science coding classes to Cleveland Metropolitan High School students who do not have access to these courses in their high schools. Once a week, students participate in 90-minute hands-on sessions at the Global Center for Health Innovation (GCHI) where they learn HTML, Scratch and soon will embark on C# (pronounced C sharp) – a general-purpose, multi-paradigm programming language.

Students receive instruction from coding professionals from IBM Watson Health and Tech Core using a curriculum provided by Hyland Software. The curriculum is the same used by Hyland at their Westlake, Ohio, headquarters in their after-school program. The pilot program is giving students necessary skills to better prepare them for education after high school, and engaging school administrators in exploring the process of instituting computer science courses within their schools so more students can have access. With \$300,000 from the state, BioEnterprise could leverage and expand the Community Classroom's capacity as a demonstration project that can be replicated across Ohio to provide a variety of computer and future data science classes, providing high school and adult students with access to knowledge and skills they would not otherwise have access to in order to advance their career potential in the growing field of Health IT.

Chairman Oelslager and members of the Committee, I urge your support on this funding request and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Growing Northeast Ohio's Bioscience Industry

The Northeast Ohio Health IT Talent Collaborative is comprised of 21 community partners including philanthropic and corporate sponsors, hospital systems, institutions of higher education, and local school districts including:

• Baldwin Wallace University	• Cuyahoga County Community College	• North Olmsted City Schools
• BioEnterprise	• Hyland	• North Royalton City Schools
• Case Western Reserve University	• IBM Watson	• OnShift
• Cleveland Foundation	• John Carroll University	• Pandata
• Cleveland Metropolitan School District	• Kent State University	• PartsSource
• Cleveland State University	• Lorain County Community College	• The Ohio State University
• CoverMyMeds	• MetroHealth	• University Hospitals

Thank you.

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ⁱ https://1gyhoq479ufd3yna29x7ubjn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/HW_Ohio.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cleveland.com/business/2019/01/top-10-fastest-growing-high-wage-jobs-in-ohio-over-the-next-5-years-careerbuilder.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.clevelandplus.com/teamneo/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/03/AligningOpportunities2018-FINAL.pdf>