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April 9, 2019

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Jodi Armstrong. I come to you today as a Superintendent, resident, taxpayer, voter, parent, and proud graduate of the Green Local School District in Scioto County. As such, I thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 4. I appreciate this chance to tell you how our small portion of an additional \$100,000,000 for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission will impact my students, their families, and my hometown community.

The Green Local School District is located in Franklin Furnace. We are a small, but proud group of approximately 4,000 residents where the school is the heart of the community. It is our place of gathering, entertainment, pride, refuge, shared history...and the educational hope and home of our future leaders.

When you think of Scioto County, you may think of Local, State, and National headlines about the opioid crisis, economic distress, high poverty, a high percentage of infants born addicted, and rising numbers of overdose deaths. Advocates are desperate to mitigate these occurrences. Green Local taxpayers are generally reluctant to spend their hard-earned money on additional taxes, making it very difficult to pass any issue on the ballot, until now. They understand that education is a way out of the social pitfalls we are plagued with in our Appalachian area. Residents see the construction of a new preschool through grade twelve facility as an investment in our children and an opportunity to provide a safe and innovative educational hub to support our kiddos as they learn to be who they're going to become. As a result, taxpayers passed our bond issue on the first try with 63% of voters (a landslide in our district) stepping-up to support this initiative. We are already collecting those tax dollars as our portion of the local share.

We now find ourselves in another difficult situation. We have waited, watched, and supported as every other public school district in Scioto County, neighboring Lawrence County, and many others, have built new facilities since ours were constructed in the 20's, 60's, and early 70's. It is now our turn to move forward with new construction. We did our part at the ballot, and yet we now find ourselves up against a new barrier...available funding within a critical timeline. Immediate funding is important as our bond issue was developed based on projected construction costs and interest rates at that time. A delay in State funding increases the risk of an inadequate budget for project completion.

Your support of Senate Bill 4 can put us back on-track to bring new hope to our embattled area. You have an opportunity to help those of us on the front line support our students, their families, and our community through the construction of a safe and innovative facility in which to provide a quality education.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration of Senate Bill 4.

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