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**SENATE BILL 8**  
**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**  
**JUNE 6, 2017**

Mr. Chairman. Members of the House Education Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 8, a permissive option to help school districts in Ohio provide for improved IT infrastructure, school security or other measures to directly support student learning and student safety. Additionally I am pleased that Representative Steve Arndt has a companion bill and has been very supportive as well. And I also welcome my joint sponsor Senator Lou Terhar on this bill.

SB 8 was initiated more than four years ago when two superintendents came to me with an idea. They knew their school districts were very unlikely to participate in the full Classroom Facility Assistance Program, but made the case that their districts deserved some of the state's resources to help their students. For a much smaller amount of money they believed they should have the opportunity to participate in a different way. I agreed.

Today's bill has been reworked since its introduction with input from school officials and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. It is flexible, can meet the needs of many districts, costs no new state money and respects the current OFSC list of districts eligible for funding under the traditional construction program.

Thank you. I look forward to working with you on this new option for Ohio schools, and I respectfully ask that you consider passage this month so that we can provide this program before the end of 2017.

