



Ohio House of Representatives
House Finance Committee
Testimony on HB 102
December 12, 2017

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera and committee members, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Douglas Mead and I am the Director for the Toledo School for the Arts. My testimony is in support of HB 102.

This Bill would help address several ongoing issues for Toledo School for the Arts.

Currently, without the aid of local tax levies, TSA relies on our Development Department to annually raise over \$550,000 from outside donations in order to balance our general operating expenses. These are funds that otherwise would go towards areas of the budget such as the endowment in order to help address discrepancies in overall teacher salaries, as well as helping to build funds for facility improvements.

As our current building is just this year 100 years old, there are several routine maintenance issues that negatively impact the general operating budget, many times at the expense of other instructional needs (which required approximately \$80,000 for Fiscal 2017 after factoring the facility funding received from the state).

While our starting annual faculty salary of \$30,000 is fairly comparable with a majority of other NW Ohio School Districts (within approximately \$5,000), the gap range becomes much more significant after 5 years (upwards to \$15,000-17,000 annually). This has caused several of our top academic teachers to leave TSA for other districts due to this difference.

Finally, the \$100,000 sponsor fee to Bowling Green State University also impacts our overall budget. This fee has forced TSA to begin the 2018 fiscal year with a deficit budget.

The proposed HB would help bridge this gap and allow TSA to become more self sufficient with our budget process. The additional funding would also allow TSA to begin implementing more innovative instructional opportunities for our students. Arts Entrepreneurship, which we consider the next phase in arts integrated education, would require approximately 33 student employees to work 20 weeks per year at a cost of \$250,000.

It is also important to note that even with these financial constraints, TSA continuously performs as one of the top rated public schools (charter or traditional public) in Ohio.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Mead
Director, Toledo School for the Arts

