



**Senate Education Committee
Written Interested Party Testimony
Marty McGann – Senior Vice President, Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
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Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Marty McGann and I am the Senior Vice President of Advocacy at the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP). Thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on SB 216.

GCP is the largest chamber of commerce in the State of Ohio representing 8,500 small, mid-market and large companies across Northeast Ohio. Our mission is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and leverage investment to improve the economic vitality of our region. We do that in many ways, including advocating for education reform efforts that ensure more students leave school prepared for college and/or career.

Our hallmark contribution to education reform has been and continues to be joining with the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), and other key community leaders to draft the Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools. We are grateful for the General Assembly's support of this plan with the passage of HB 525 in 2012.

A key component in HB 525 was the development of a teacher evaluation system for CMSD that would inform district decision-making and provide the needed data to improve the quality of education in our schools, in alignment with the goals of the Cleveland Plan. Stakeholders in the business and philanthropic community along with the City of Cleveland, CMSD and the Cleveland Teachers Union worked collectively to develop this teacher evaluation system. Without collective agreement among these parties about needed changes to Cleveland's current system, GCP cannot support language in SB 216 or any other bill that would alter what is currently in state law, enacted in HB 525.

The success of Cleveland schools is of the upmost importance to our member companies and our board leadership. We look forward to working with you to find the right solution that enables CMSD to continue building momentum with the Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.