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Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, Representative Crossman and I thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 549. This legislation would increase accountability and transparency in regards to Ohio's community schools.

Currently, community schools are not playing by the same rules as Ohio's public schools. Community schools receive public dollars, and we ought to know where those dollars are going. As a result, HB549 would ensure that the Auditor of State conducts an annual all accounts, reports, records, and files regarding receipt or expenditure of public funds received by each operator of a community school. In addition, it specifies that records relating to the management and operation of a community school are a public record. As a final point on the topic of transparency, the bill ensures that community school operators comply with the Opens Meeting Law.

The bill also establishes a limit on a community school operator's profit, and it phases out for-profit community schools. The top priority of community schools should be educating students—not lining the operators' pockets. Bringing transparency and accountability to community schools will hold them to a similar standard as our public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony with my joint sponsor Rep. Crossman. We will take questions at the conclusion of our testimony.