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**OPPONENT TESTIMONY
TO
HOUSE BILL 218 - PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

**HOUSE STATE and LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
November 17, 2020**

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Political & Legislative Director**

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Good Afternoon Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. My name is Robert Davis and I'm the Political & Legislative Director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8. AFSCME Ohio Council 8 represents more than 38,000 individuals that work in municipal and county government, K-12 public schools, colleges, universities and hospitals across Ohio. I ask that you allow this written testimony to stand as AFSCME Ohio Council 8 opposition to House Bill 218, legislation that would authorize certain public entities to enter into public-private partnership with private sector parties.

Although on its surface this legislation may appeal to some particularly when it comes to the financing of certain public improvements, our interests and concerns lie with individuals that perform the duties and operations at these facilities daily. The work these individuals provide include the maintenance, repair and operations of these facilities which Ohioans depend on each day. Careful review of House Bill 218 will show that it provides no protections to the workers at facilities that would be included in the public-private agreement (PPA) as it relates to job security, wages, benefits, etc.

Employers that have entered into collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) with their employees have a contractual obligation to the terms and conditions provided under the CBA. In most circumstances that involve a publicly owned facility this also includes a public pension obligation that the public entity required to assume.



We believe there should be provisions set forth in HB218 that address these concerns some of which include:

- When a public legislative body enters into a PPA will individuals that staff these facilities currently retain their employment or will they now be considered employees of the private entity?
- Will an employee's wage and benefit scale be maintained?
- What about the individual's all-important public pension benefit? Will that be maintained, or will the employee be enrolled in a 401(k)-type plan or worse yet, no retiree plan at all?

We believe these issues should be addressed by members of this committee before the legislation is reported out. AFSCME Ohio Council 8 stands ready to assist members of this committee in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns on how this legislation may impact our members. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns.