



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Education Committee

Support for Community School Change to “Effective” Rated Sponsors

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Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Minority Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Jennifer Schorr and I am the President of the Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers (OACSA). I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony today on behalf of the organization. The Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers is a non-profit organization whose sponsor members organized to eliminate barriers to quality educational opportunities for all Ohio students by promoting and demonstrating quality sponsorship practices and decision-making.

As you know, many high stakes decisions are tied to the Local Report Card and Accountability measures, among these the ability of community schools to enter into a contract with a new sponsor when certain provisions exist that are tied to academic measures on the Local Report Card.

With the proposal of S.B. 358 directing the Department of Education to not publish state report card ratings for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school years; schools and sponsors need the flexibility to enter into new sponsorship agreements during these school years as long as the *new* sponsor has received a rating of “effective” or higher by the Department on the most recent sponsor evaluation.

Sponsors are conducting compliance reviews, evaluating all other sources of academic performance data available to them, completing opening assurances for new schools, monitoring fiscal performance regularly, conducting various types of “site visits”, and attending board meetings. Sponsors are the most informed and equipped entities to determine a request for a change in a sponsorship contract.

We fully support the proposed amendment introduced in S.B. 358 to allow a community school to seek to enter into a contract with a new sponsor if the proposed sponsor received a rating of “effective” or higher on the most recent sponsor evaluation; and the community school has been approved by the new sponsor for a contract.

We feel this aligns with many other areas supported by the Legislature and the Ohio Department of Education during these unprecedented times.