

Written Testimony on House Bill 110

House Finance Committee

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the committee, my name is Marty McGann, and I am the Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives for the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP). Thank you for the opportunity to offer our members' perspectives on House Bill 110, Ohio's two-year state budget bill.

The mission of the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP), as you know, is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and leverage investment to improve the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio. We are a non-partisan, member-driven organization serving more than 12,000 small, mid-market and large companies across Northeast Ohio. We continually engage our members to define and advocate for public policies that allow for a healthy environment for businesses and entrepreneurs.

GCP greatly appreciates that House Bill 110 currently presents a balanced budget approach without any readily apparent tax increases. Predictability and stability are key factors to consider as the business community continues to navigate an uncertain environment related to the coronavirus pandemic.

We are encouraged and grateful for many of the key provisions that are currently included in House Bill 110 and urge policymakers to consider the northeast Ohio business community's views and positions on the following:

- Preserve Ohio's small business tax deduction on the first \$250K in business income; we have consistently heard directly from our members that utilize these dollars to reinvest back into their companies and workforce.
- Sustain Ohio's current commercial activity tax (CAT) rate.
- Support the \$460M in grant proposals that would aid small businesses, new businesses, bars and restaurants, lodging facilities, and indoor entertainment venues.
- Approve the proposed funding for broadband affordability issues in urban areas.
- Advance the \$200M proposal to provide up to \$2.5M grants for infrastructure projects.
- Authorize \$100M to expand the Cleveland Innovation District.
- Fund the H2Ohio program fully with \$240M.
- Support technology-focused credentials through the TechCred Program, including the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program.



- Approve \$15M to support targeted workforce investments in economically distressed rural and urban communities.
- Devote \$16M toward the goal of helping high school students earn 70K in workforce credentials each year; support the additional \$25M proposal to aid schools in offering new and high-demand credentials to students.
- Support the expansion of Ohio to Work to help Ohioans facing job loss connect with a career coach, supportive services, and rapid re-training to become employed in an in-demand job.
- Fund the Industry Sector Partnership Grant to support partnerships among business, schools, training providers, and community leaders, strengthening the local workforce; these partnerships develop and enhance career pathways for workers in specific industries.
- Support and expand programs like the Export Internship, Diversity & Inclusion Internship, and Choose Ohio First.
- Guarantee every student in Ohio has access to computer science education.

Ohio must have strong economic development tools to bolster support for Ohio-based companies and create the conditions for recovery. The policies above will help foster a strong, vibrant business community in Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our members' perspectives. We look forward to working with you throughout Ohio's biennial budget process in the days, weeks, and months ahead.