



- Andrews Osborne Academy
- Birchwood School of Hawken
- Canton Country Day School
- Central Montessori Academy
- Cincinnati Country Day School
- Cincinnati Hills  
Christian Academy
- Columbus Academy
- Columbus Jewish Day School
- Columbus School for Girls
- Columbus Torah Academy
- Gilmour Academy
- Grand River Academy
- Hathaway Brown
- Hawken School
- Hershey Montessori School
- Hudson Montessori School
- Jos. and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School
- Lake Ridge Academy
- Laurel School
- The Lawrence School
- The Lillian and Betty Ratner School
- Linden Grove School
- The Lippman School
- Mansion Day School
- Marburn Academy
- Maumee Valley Country Day School
- McGuffey Montessori School
- The Miami Valley School
- The New School
- Old Trail School
- Olney Friends School
- Ridgewood School
- Ruffing Montessori School -  
Cleveland Heights
- Ruffing Montessori - Rocky River
- The Schilling School for  
Gifted Children
- The Seven Hills School
- Summit Country Day School
- University School
- Urban Community School
- Wellington School
- Welsh Hills School
- Western Reserve Academy

April 15, 2021

## **Ohio House Finance Committee**

Interested Party Testimony  
Dan Dodd – Executive Director  
Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present brief testimony regarding a portion of HB 110 that we believe should be removed from the bill. My name is Dan Dodd and I represent the Ohio Association of Independent Schools.

In 2019, the Ohio General Assembly and Governor DeWine authorized language in the biennial budget to give all students attending a school in Ohio on an F-1 visa the ability to participate in interscholastic athletics. Prior to the 2019 change, it was only students attending a boarding school in the state who were allowed to participate, a provision of state law also enacted by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Kasich in 2017.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) vigorously opposed the 2017 and 2019 provisions, claiming that these changes would lead to widespread recruitment and exploitation of students from other countries for the sole purpose of athletic participation. The reality is neither of these “Chicken Little” scenarios actually happened since the enactment of either provision. The 2017 legislation served as a pilot project of sorts, and the schools passed the test, which merited an expansion of eligibility. It is also worth pointing out the reality that OHSAA has vigorous, stringent marketing restrictions that are classified as recruiting prohibitions, and engaging in those activities can serve as grounds for penalties or a loss of membership in the organization. OHSAA has the power already to prevent the recruiting of international athletes even without this amendment.

When you strip out the rhetoric, what is left is the fact that students in Ohio on an F-1 visa are students coming to our state to avail themselves of the amazing academic opportunities that Ohio’s academic institutions provide, and only want to participate in athletics so that they can have a full and complete American high school experience without feeling the ostracization they often feel solely because they were born in the wrong place.

The chilling effect a change like this can have on the education community would be significant. It would set a precedent that positive, transformative plans that school boards, administrators, and teachers depend on, support and use to plan for the future of their schools or districts can disappear in two short years at the whim of another General Assembly without warning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and for your work on behalf of Ohioans young and old alike. I’d be happy to answer any questions you may have.