



**Representative Lisa Sobecki
House District 45**

**House Bill (H.B.) 49: Reinstate Joint Education Oversight Committee
February 9, 2020**

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and fellow members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 49 to reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, with my joint sponsor Rep. Phil Robinson.

The Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) was established in 2015 during the 131st General Assembly, and was eliminated last GA during the budget process. JEOC was a bipartisan, bicameral body overseeing emerging education policy issues in Ohio. Some of the past members include myself, Rep. Robinson, Rep. Don Jones, and now Speaker Cupp.

JEOC provided non-partisan, fact-based, and in-depth analysis of the K-12 education system at a great value to the tax payer, and was an important tool for robust legislative oversight. Through its relative short existence, JEOC conducted valuable research on the state report card, state testing, early childhood education, and so forth. Included with our testimony is a full list of what the committee produced.

House Bill 49 appropriates \$755,331 over the upcoming two year budget. The State of Ohio spends around \$76 million per year for State Assessments. The cost of JEOC is about 1% of what we spend on the testing; testing whereas it is an accepted fact we do not get valuable information back worth \$76 million. But lawmakers got valuable information from JEOC, and can if the committee is reestablished. Last budget, 28.1% of the Operating Budget was spent on K-12 Education. For only a small fraction of that we can fund this critical tool. During the presentation on the budget to the House Finance Committee, LSC projected the tax revenue for the State at roughly \$838 million more than Governor DeWine's projections. It is our belief that the State of Ohio can pay for JEOC and should make the investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I will now turn the mic over to my joint sponsor. Afterwards, I'll be happy to answer any questions there may be.