



Interested Party Testimony on Sub SB 178  
Written Testimony  
December 13, 2022  
Submitted by Carrie Arblaster  
Vice President of Public Policy, Philanthropy Ohio

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 178.

I am Carrie Arblaster, Vice President of Public Policy at Philanthropy Ohio, a statewide association whose mission is to lead and equip Ohio philanthropy to be effective partners for change in their communities. We work to build the skills, knowledge and connections among grantmaking organizations, helping them to become more strategic and efficient in their efforts to support nonprofits and communities. Our nearly 200 members collectively hold more than \$30 billion in assets and in 2019 invested over \$1.9 billion in their communities. Additionally, Ohio's philanthropies have a strong, long tradition of supporting education, granting more than \$845 million in 2018.

Since its creation in 2006, Philanthropy Ohio's Education Initiative has asserted that every child – regardless of zip code, gender or race – deserves an education that leads to successful employment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. To that end, we have partnered closely with the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education on several important projects.

Philanthropy Ohio supported the work of the 2018 state's Strategic Plan for Education by hosting eleven regional meetings so the public could provide input into the process. Additionally, members of Philanthropy Ohio served on each of the Strategic Plan workgroups. Shortly after the pandemic began, Philanthropy Ohio partnered with the Ohio Department of Education to establish the Ohio Collaborative for Educating Remotely and Transforming Schools Fund, a public-private partnership to provide financial support to schools so they could meet students remote learning needs. The fund was comprised of dollars from 27 philanthropic organizations and the Ohio Department of Education. Ultimately, a total of \$5.7 million was raised and distributed to 57 grantees. In 2022, Philanthropy Ohio and more than 50 of its members again worked with the Ohio Department of Education to review applications and award \$89 million in Summer Learning and Afterschool Opportunities Grants.

As you consider Substitute Senate Bill 178, we encourage you to keep students at the center of your deliberations and remain steadfast in your commitment to high quality learning. Transparency and representation are key components of a holistic and fully functioning educational system. Should the state choose to move forward with these changes, we implore this body to allow for continued public participation and geographical representation in the decision-making process. Additionally, we ask that this body not forget the importance of high-



quality early learning and that to the best of its ability, continue to work towards a truly comprehensive approach to education that begins and ends before and after a child leaves the traditional K-12 system. If we are to make true, transformational change, it is the whole child that must be taught, cared for and considered.

Philanthropy Ohio remains committed to seeing that all students in Ohio receive an education that leads to a successful life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also remain committed to our work here in the state of Ohio.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on this important topic and am available for follow-up questions if need be.