



STEM Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program for Students to Help Develop Ohio's Future Workforce

Popularly Known as the “*Believe in Ohio Student STEM Innovation & Scholarship Program*”

Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee. I am offering this written testimony in support of Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110, “STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program for Students to Help Develop Ohio's Future Workforce”, which continues funding of what is more popularly known as the “Believe in Ohio Student STEM Innovation and Scholarship Program”.

My name is Dr. Julian Earls. I am a retired Director of the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. While serving as Center Director, I along with Dr. Karen Holbrook who was then President of The Ohio State University co-chaired the Science and Mathematics Education Policy Advisory Council (SAMEPAC) for the State of Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about my support for the Believe in Ohio program.

While at Glenn Research Center I was proud that NASA included among its mission the charge to inspire the next generation of explorers. In addition, I took great pride in the SAMEPAC Report that called for “bold action that will support economic growth, strengthen the system of mathematics and science education, build upon existing programs and make high-level mathematics and science courses available to all Ohio students.” I know of no better program for moving Ohio forward in achieving the aforementioned goals than the Believe in Ohio Program. It is imperative that we dramatically increase the number of Ohio students who acquire greater thinking, reasoning and problem-solving skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The Believe in Ohio Program already has demonstrated success in preparing students to succeed in the 21st century economy. It goes beyond educating a relatively small percentage of students to educating a much larger population of students across all backgrounds and economic status.

On behalf of the students in our state, who will benefit from the Believe in Ohio program, I strongly urge you to support Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110.

Respectfully,

Dr. Julian M. Earls

Director, NASA Glenn Research Center (Ret.)
Executive in Residence, Cleveland State University (Ret.)