

Written Testimony on House Bill 110

Senate Finance Committee

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Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the committee, my name is Marty McGann and I am the Executive 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 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 grant proposals that would aid small businesses, new businesses, bars and restaurants, lodging facilities, and indoor entertainment venues.
- Advance the grants for infrastructure projects.
- Restore the H2Ohio program fully.
- Support technology-focused credentials through the TechCred Program, including the Individual Microcredential Assistance Program.
- Approve the targeted workforce investments in economically distressed rural and urban communities.
- Advance toward the goal of helping high school students earn 70,000 workforce credentials each year; support the additional 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.

In addition, our members advocate for the inclusion of the following initiatives in the state budget bill:

- Designate funding for broadband affordability issues in urban areas.
- Create a Small Business Line of Credit (LoC) Pilot Program for small and minority companies that lack access to responsible loan products.
- Refund the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for brownfield cleanup.

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 and weeks ahead.