



## Believe in Ohio

May 20, 2021

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 –SC2521X1, “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 Laura Brennan of Columbus, Ohio. I am a retired high school science teacher and a former science fair director. I have helped students perform science research and have taken students to International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for 17 years. I understand what encouragement can do to help students develop their passion for STEM. Science research and creating opportunities for all students to learn and develop STEM skills lead me to the Believe in Ohio Program as an advocate with the Ohio Academy of Science. I completely support the programs of the Ohio Academy of Science and am honored to represent the Believe in Ohio Program in Central Ohio.

The Believe in Ohio program has created opportunities for students to develop entrepreneurial skills using their STEM ideas. The program helps students develop problem solving skills, critical thinking and understand the process of taking an idea to market. This program reaches students throughout Ohio.

The program quickly adjusted during this past school year to make sure it could be used in a virtual or in a classroom setting. The Believe in Ohio program developed resources for teachers to provide guided instruction on the STEM process. Students could compete in Local, Regional and State competitions and a STEM student from each district in Ohio could earn scholarship money. This program truly provides opportunities for all high school students across the state of Ohio. Let us continue to encourage Ohio high school students to develop STEM talents and entrepreneurship skills through the support of this well-developed program.

Please support Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Laura Brennan