



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 Victoria Quinter. I am a veteran science teacher at Anna High School in the small rural village of Anna, Ohio. I advise students who participate in the Believe in Ohio program at our school. This is my 34th year of teaching. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about my support for the Believe in Ohio program.

Believe in Ohio has been one of the best interdisciplinary assignments I have ever given students. They must transfer skills used in classes such as English, Composition, Computers, Speech, and Interactive Media. This is the closest thing my school has to a senior capstone project. Parents, community members and administrators have supported the program as it uses a "real world" process to solve a problem and teach students about entrepreneurship which is not part of any other class' curriculum. Former students have contacted me after graduation to thank me for getting them ready for their college classes. Many have noted that the process we completed is similar to one they had to do in freshmen Intro to Engineering or Honors Capstone classes. They said the process was easy as they had already been through it in high school.

The Believe in Ohio curriculum is thorough and the program runs with very few (if any) glitches. The support from the Academy of Science has been fabulous. Believe in Ohio is a fantastic opportunity for our students to brainstorm solutions to problems applying the STEM skills they have learned along with skills from other classes. Students learn to solicit feedback from community members then revise their papers based on the feedback. This is crucial for the students' growth.

Some students have told me they would not have gone to college, or that they chose to attend an Ohio college or university instead of going out of state because of Believe in Ohio scholarship money. These are the best and brightest of our school. We want to keep these students in Ohio. They also enjoy the "Shark Tank" like atmosphere. This program makes a real difference.

On behalf of the students in my school and in our state, I urge you to support Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute house Bill 110 that continues funding of the Believe in Ohio Program.

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