



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 Jenna Pollock. I am the Education Program Manager for the Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence in STEM Education at Bowling Green State University. I have been in the Education field for 26 years in a variety of positions from classroom teacher, to curriculum, to now higher education. I am also currently a Believe in Ohio STEM Advocate for the Northwest region for the second year. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about my support for the Believe in Ohio program

Today's students learn best through authentic experiences and when the learning is relevant to their lives. Engagement and motivation occur when students take ownership and direct their learning. When student can make connections in their learning, they gain confidence and understanding and become experts in the relevant content. The Believe in Ohio program is an exceptional learning experience which allows students to participate in this type of authentic and sustained learning.

As a STEM Education center and the Northwest Ohio Hub for the Ohio STEM Learning Network, we consult with numerous districts on their STEM programming and curriculum. One of our 'go-to' suggestions for high schools is to implement this high-quality and meaningful program. It's delivery model is flexible but it is also structured enough (which teachers love!) to provide the needed guidance and resources to ensure that the critical elements are targeted. Believe in Ohio has built a well-thought-out curriculum based in a Google Classroom which delivers clear direction for the teacher to implement with a variety of resources to choose from to engage the students in authentic learning experiences. All content is up-to-date and highly relevant from design-thinking to problem solving to career exploration to researching STEM concepts and developing professional skills. And all through the context of thinking like an entrepreneur.

It's exhilarating to observe students being excited and passionate about their learning through the Believe in Ohio program! Our great state of Ohio will reap the benefits of these highly motivated students as teachers and community leaders encourage them to remain in Ohio for college and beyond. Students presenting their projects to a variety of community supporters and the scholarship opportunities for Ohio universities only helps seal the deal for this high-quality education program and encouraging students to truly Believe in Ohio.

On behalf of the teachers and students in our state, I urge you to please support Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110 which continues funding of the Believe in Ohio Program.

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