



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"

May 19, 2021

Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee. I am offering this written testimony in support of Amendment SC2521XI 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 Rickey Terrell. I am a Program Manager in University of Cincinnati's College of Education and a STEM advocate. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about our support for the Believe in Ohio program.

Over the course of my undergraduate and professional career, I am committed to supporting high school students in their pursuit of STEM careers. I have created the Hughes High School Science Fair which encouraged students to develop a research topic and provided opportunities for them to share their work. Additionally, I have supported programs such as the Southwest Ohio Science and Engineering Expo and the University of Cincinnati Early IT Program. Programs like these are crucial components of future STEM students' journey in their K-12 education. I firmly believe that supporting Ohio students in STEM will lead to statewide economic growth and an improved math and science education pipeline. There is no better way to continue this work than the Believe in Ohio Program. This program has historically shown success in preparing students to succeed in STEM while also considering the current economic climate, a powerful combination that can encourage students to be change agents in our communities. The Believe in Ohio program expands the opportunities of Ohio students from all backgrounds and economic status to acquire and apply these skills.

On behalf of the students in our state who will benefit from the Believe in Ohio program, I strongly urge you to support Amendment SC2521XI to Substitute House Bill 110.

Respectfully,

Rickey Terrell
Program Manager
CECH-Education Innovations & Community Partnerships
University of Cincinnati