



TESTIMONY OF MIKE WOYTEK, OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, IN SUPPORT OF SUB. H.B. 110

BORCD83 Workforce and Higher Education Programs Section 381.450

THURSDAY JUNE 03, 2021 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee. My name is Mike Woytek, I am the Executive Director of The Ohio Academy of Science, who collaborates with Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio, to provide the *Believe In Ohio STEM Innovation and Scholarship Program*. I have brief testimony to offer and a great THANK YOU to this Committee, to Senate President Huffman and Leadership for including this program into the substitute Senate version of Sub. H.B. 110.

A few weeks back, our organization presented to you students and teachers who benefit from our STEM Innovation and Scholarship Program. You listened, considered the high value that STEM provides to the State of Ohio, and you have acted to include this valuable program into BORCD83 Section 381.450 for \$1 million in FY22 and FY23.

We cannot thank you enough, and that is why I am here. You received many requests, billions of dollars more than the state has to spend in a budget cycle, but by supporting the Academy's request to continue this program, you have demonstrated that the need for STEM innovation and scholarship is so vital to the people of Ohio.

Over the past months, The Academy sponsored *Believe in Ohio* STEM Commercialization Plan and STEM Business Plan competitions throughout Ohio, in which high school students have demonstrated their potential to become the innovators and job creators that Ohio will need in the future to continue our state's prosperity. We owe so much of it to you, our partner in Ohio's bright future. Just wanted to say thank you and ask you to please help us in Conference Committee to keep serving Ohio.