



Chairwoman Richardson, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of KIPP Columbus regarding House Bill 33, Governor DeWine's introduced version of the State Operating Budget. My name is Ciji Pittman and I serve as Superintendent at KIPP Columbus, leading and managing our schools, programs, and overall operations.

Like many schools throughout Ohio, the KIPP team, our students, and families met each challenge and opportunity these unprecedented times provided with resilience, gratitude, and a relentless pursuit of the possible.

- 100% of our students qualify for free breakfast and lunch, more than 95% identify as people of color, about 15% are identified as special education students, and 40% have a sibling in our school.
- 100% of our KIPP Seniors in the Class of 2020, 2021, and 2022 graduated on time and on track.
- 100% of KIPP graduates in our first three classes of graduates have been accepted to college and/or the military, receiving nearly \$50M in scholarships and aid, leaving a legacy and continuing to pave the path for future generations.
- KIPP Columbus has been recognized with a number of state, national, and international awards. These include, but are not limited to:
  - 4 time Momentum Award Winner from the Ohio Department of Education
  - 11 years of perfect, clean audits including multiple Auditor of state Awards
  - 2020 Above and Beyond Award winner (1 of 10 honorees from across the country) from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools for going above and beyond in our community response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - 2020 Future Engineer Teacher of the Year, was a KIPP Columbus High teacher (1 of 7 in the country)
  - KIPP Columbus High received the Collegeboard's 2020 and 2021 Female Diversity Award.

KIPP Columbus applauds the Governor's support for an increase for High Performing Community Schools in his introduced budget. Currently, Ohio community schools receive on average roughly 70-75 cents on the dollar in total funding compared to their local district. Governor DeWine's recommendation for the high-quality fund of \$125 million per year, along with \$3,000 per economically disadvantaged student each year, would move quality charters' funding levels closer to parity with districts while still recognizing the importance of supporting excellence in education.

House Bill 33 also doubles the per-pupil facility allowance from \$500 to \$1,000- \$500 per pupil, for the cost of facilities, building operations, and maintenance. These additional funds will make it possible for KIPP Columbus to continue to provide the supports students deserve as they acquire the skills necessary to succeed in college, career, and beyond. KIPP Columbus continues to prove our model is successful. KIPP Columbus, on the most recent state report card, outperformed the local district in all areas and KIPP's graduation rate of 98.6% was higher than nearly all central Ohio schools, and nearly 20% higher than our local districts.

Chairwoman Richardson, thank you again for the opportunity to testify before this committee and I am available to answer any questions you may have.