



Interested Party Testimony on SB 1
Written Testimony
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Submitted by Carrie Arblaster
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Chair Brenner, Vice-Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and Members of the Senate Education committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on Senate Bill 1.

I am Carrie Arblaster, Vice President of Public Policy at Philanthropy Ohio, a statewide association whose mission is to lead and equip Ohio philanthropy to be effective partners for change in their communities. We work to build the skills, knowledge and connections among grantmaking organizations, helping them to become more strategic and efficient in their efforts to support nonprofits and communities. Our nearly 200 members collectively hold more than \$30 billion in assets and in 2019 invested over \$1.9 billion in their communities. Additionally, Ohio's philanthropies have a strong, long tradition of supporting education, granting more than \$845 million in 2018.

Since its creation in 2006, Philanthropy Ohio's Education Initiative has asserted that every child – regardless of zip code, gender or race – deserves an education that leads to successful employment in the 21st century economy. To that end, we have partnered closely with the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education on several important projects.

As you consider Senate Bill 1, we encourage you to keep students at the center of your deliberations and remain steadfast in your commitment to high quality learning. Transparency and representation are key components of a holistic and fully functioning educational system. Should the state choose to move forward with these changes, we implore this body to allow for continued public participation and geographical representation in the decision-making process. Additionally, we ask that this body not forget the importance of high-quality early learning and that to the best of its ability, continue to work towards a truly comprehensive approach to education that begins and ends before and after a child leaves the traditional K-12 system. If we are to make true, transformational change, it is the whole child that must be taught, cared for and considered.

Additionally, we firmly believe that without a clear, strategic plan it will be both difficult to discern where we are going and to measure if we have succeeded. The current statewide strategic plan for Education is set to expire in 2024. We ask that should the Department of Education and Workforce indeed come into being, they be required to continue with the current plan until its expiration and commit to renew and revise the plan for the next five years. The process leading to the creation of the current plan involved feedback from several communities around the state. Many convenings of which members of Philanthropy Ohio hosted. Moving forward with a



renewed strategic plan would present a wonderful opportunity for the public to reengage during a time of significant change. We argue that this would also be a great opportunity for the new department to show its commitment to an accessible and transparent process.

Regarding the proposal to focus on career development and workforce, we applaud the effort of the bill's sponsor to bring together the traditional K-12 and career tech pieces of our educational system. However, we would like to ask that the focus of the career tech be both on the current economy and the future economy. Currently, there appears to be an emphasis on in-demand jobs and little focus on the future of jobs. We believe that to do this well it is necessary to devote time to both. As you all know, the economy changes quickly and the jobs of tomorrow are likely not even here today. To best prepare our learners, we must consider the jobs of the future as well as those jobs that are currently in-demand jobs.

Philanthropy Ohio remains committed to seeing that all students in Ohio receive an education that leads to a successful life in the 21st century. We also remain committed to our work here in the state of Ohio. We look forward to working with you.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide interested party testimony and am available for follow-up questions if need be.