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Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Bill 181  
Senate Education Committee  
June 11, 2024

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Ingram and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony in support of Senate Bill 181.

In the fall, Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) announced that they plan to charge \$15 dollars for admittance to Football Tournament games for both students and non-students who plan to pay in cash at the gate. This was higher than online tickets purchased with a credit card, which were \$9 for students and \$12 for non-students. OHSAA did this as a loophole to the provision in HB33, which mandated that schools accept cash at entry. Their loophole is that the language did not specifically state interscholastic conferences or organizations. Sadly, I have also heard from angry constituents across the state that many schools are not abiding by the provision in HB33 or finding their own loophole.

SB 181 is intended to counteract OHSAA's and its member schools' shameful act of not accepting cash and/or charging more for cash tickets at the gate than online ticket prices by closing the loophole. Specifically, SB 181 expands the definition of a qualifying school to include an interscholastic conference or an organization that regulates these conferences or interscholastic athletic competition among member schools.

In addition, SB 181 will require:

- Qualifying schools (including OHSAA) to establish the same price for both cash and online ticket prices
- Qualifying schools (including OHSAA) who do not accept cash payments on the date of the event to allow an individual free entry if that individual demonstrates that they have enough cash to cover the cost of the ticket

- Qualifying schools (including OHSAA) to charge a student enrolled in any school participating in a school-affiliated event a ticket price that is less than the adult ticket price for the same event
- Qualifying schools (including OHSAA) that offer concessions to offer a cash payment option for concessions

SB 181 also extends beyond sporting events to include any other school-related event or activity such as a play or musical.

All and all, OHSAA and its member schools actions are completely unfair to those who want to attend the games and pay with a legally accepted currency in Ohio and truthfully, their actions are downright shameful. Families should not have to spend \$60+ to see their child play, grandmas and grandpas should not be turned away at the gate just because they do not have a smart device to purchase a ticket on, and students should not be excluded from activities due to not having a credit card or it being unaffordable.

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and fellow members of the Education Committee, I thank each of you for your time and interest in SB 181. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.