



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony, SB 6, March 7th, 2023

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Cirino, and Ranking Member Sykes, my name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities.

Ensuring that public investment decisions are made for the sole purpose of maximizing the return on investment is common sense and good governance, and that is why AFP supports SB 6. This legislation would prevent environmental, social, or corporate governance policies from influencing state public investments. Requiring retirement boards and boards of other state agencies – such as the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and publicly-funded universities – to make investment decisions with the sole purpose of maximizing the return on investments ensures our tax dollars are being spent as they were intended to be, and to upholds the state's obligations to retirement system beneficiaries.

It is noteworthy that SB 6 is not upending current practices within Ohio's retirement systems, but simply reinforcing and clarifying the existing prudent investor standard, as reports emerge of other states not holding to that standard when it comes to public investments. SB 6 would ensure that fiduciary duty is adhered to by public boards and that their sole purpose is to maximize the return on investment for Ohioans who have paid into those systems over the course of their careers, and who rely on the solvency of those systems as they make their personal financial decisions.

Thank you again, Chairman Dolan, for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 6, and thank you to Senator Schuring, who is as well-versed with the intricacies of Ohio's state retirement systems as anyone in the General Assembly, for sponsoring this straightforward,

fiscally responsible legislation. I'm happy to do my best answer any questions the committee may have.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.