



**Proponent testimony submitted to the  
Senate Health Committee  
House Bill 33  
Dorothy Moulthrop, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer  
Open Doors Academy  
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Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 33. My name is Dorothy Moulthrop, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Open Doors Academy (ODA). ODA provides afterschool programs, summer camps, scholar travel opportunities, and year-round family engagement programming to kids and young adults across Northern and Central Ohio. We are not a school. We do not receive per pupil funding. We are an educational non-profit organization, and our mission is to protect, inspire, nurture, and challenge youth to reach their full potential. ODA is based in Cleveland and serves more than 1,600 kids and families each year.

ODA launched the Center for Out-of-School Advancement (COSA) in 2018 to elevate the field of out-of-school time (OST) education and programming. The Ohio Department of Education has recognized ODA's expertise in OST education, partnering with COSA to provide professional development and regional trainings to over 200 other OST programs across Ohio that serve over 40,000 kids.

In the last budget, ODA was awarded \$2.3 million in TANF funds each fiscal year to support and grow our programming. As a result of this investment, five afterschool programs were added or expanded at Firelands Local Schools, Lima City Schools, Mansfield City Schools, and Sandusky City Schools. Today, ODA has 21 programs in 8 districts and we continue to receive requests to open additional programs at schools in the districts we serve, as well as schools that would like to open new programs in other areas of the state. **We ask for your support to maintain the \$2.8 million in TANF funds included in the House-passed version of the budget for ODA.**

The majority of our scholars are African American and come from low income families. In fact, over 90% of our kids and families live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Our model is research-based and built on the belief that providing youth with a safe environment, caring adult relationships, and strong community partnerships builds a solid foundation to achieve their

academic and career goals. We believe our outcomes speak to the success of our model: last year, on average, the more time a scholar spent in the program the greater the increase on his or her math proficiency, and since 2018, 100% of ODA students who spent two years in our high school program graduated high school.

A recent analysis of the impact of our program on scholars' grades at our programs in Mansfield, Lima, and Sandusky, and in Lorain County further demonstrates the success of this model. On average, 66% of our scholars improved in English/Language and 64% of scholars improved in Math from the first to third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Many of our scholars' parents cannot afford childcare before and after school or during the summer. Our programs allow them to keep their jobs by providing a safe and reliable place for their children to continue learning beyond school hours.

I ask for your support of ODA funding in the operating budget so that we can continue to work with children across Ohio to reach their full potential. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.