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Joe Miller**State Representative - District 53**

I would first like to thank Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, and the members of the House Education Committee for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 164 to reinstate the Joint Education Oversight Committee, with my joint sponsor Rep. Robinson.

The Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC) was established in 2015 during the 131st General Assembly and was eliminated in the 133rd GA during the budget process. JEOC was a bipartisan, bicameral body overseeing emerging education policy issues in Ohio. JEOC provided non-partisan, fact-based, and in-depth analysis of the K-12 education system at a great value to the tax payer, and was an important tool for robust legislative oversight. Through its relatively short existence, JEOC conducted valuable research on the state report card, state testing, early childhood education, and so forth.

The committee shall consist of the following members:

- Five House Representatives appointed by the Speaker consisting of three members of the majority party and two members of the minority party;
- Five senators appointed by the Senate President, three of whom are majority party members and two minority party members

In an odd-numbered year, the Speaker will designate a Majority House member as the chairperson, and the Senate President will designate one Senate Member of the minority party as the ranking member. In even-numbered years, the Senate President shall designate a Majority Senate Member as the chairperson, and the Speaker will designate a Minority House Member as the ranking member.

HB 164 requires that the committee authorize a plan of work which includes research, review, study, and analysis of current or emerging education policy issues important to Ohioans. Additionally, the committee can review and evaluate education programs at public school

districts, community (charter) and STEM schools, state institutions of higher education, and other K-12 education programs that receive state financial assistance in any form. The chairperson also can request any state agency or political subdivision to provide data determined to be useful to any policy review or hearing. Finally, the bill requires both the Director of DEW and Chancellor of Higher Education to appear before the committee upon the chairperson's request. The appropriation of \$376,663 in FY 2026 and \$378,668 in FY 2027 covers JEOC's operating costs, based on past funding, and a per diem rate of \$150 per member, and necessary traveling expenses. Whatever appropriated funds are not used will be appropriated to the same item for the next fiscal year.

Thank you again to Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, and members of the House Education Committee for allowing me to speak on HB 164, I will now turn the mic over to my joint sponsor.

