



House Bill 650 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee
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Chair Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the Ohio House Technology and Innovation Committee, thank you for allowing Cleveland Clinic to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 650, which would establish the Frontier Technologies and Quantum Commission in Ohio. My name is Dr. Lara Jehi, and I am Chief Research Information Officer for Cleveland Clinic.

Cleveland Clinic is a not-for-profit, integrated healthcare system dedicated to patient-centered care, teaching, and research. Cleveland Clinic Health System operates 23 hospitals with more than 6,700 staffed beds, including a main campus near downtown Cleveland and 15 Northeast Ohio regional hospitals, as well as 280 outpatient locations. Cleveland Clinic employs over 5,700 physicians and researchers, and 16,800 nurses. Last year, our system cared for 3.5 million patients, including 14.1 million outpatient visits and 333,000 hospital admissions and observations.

Cleveland Clinic aims to build a quantum computing ecosystem of research and innovation from basic research to technology translation to workforce development. Quantum computing has the potential to revolutionize healthcare and life sciences research. It is an entirely new method of computing that is transforming our ability to perform complex calculations that even the most advanced super computers cannot solve. Its abilities can help researchers break through traditional scientific bottlenecks and identify new medicines and treatments.

In 2023, Cleveland Clinic and IBM officially unveiled the first deployment of an onsite private sector IBM-managed quantum computer in the United States. The IBM Quantum System One installed at Cleveland Clinic is the first quantum computer in the world to be uniquely dedicated to healthcare research with an aim to help Cleveland Clinic accelerate biomedical discoveries.

The unveiling is a key milestone in Cleveland Clinic's and IBM's Discovery Accelerator partnership, which has generated multiple projects that leverage the latest in quantum computing, AI and hybrid cloud to help expedite discoveries in biomedical research. These include:

- Development of quantum computing pipelines to screen and optimize drugs targeted to specific proteins;
- Improvement of a quantum-enhanced prediction model for recovery after joint replacement surgery
- Application of artificial intelligence to search genome sequencing findings and large drug-target databases to find effective, existing drugs that could help patients with Alzheimer's and other diseases.

The Discovery Accelerator also serves as the technology foundation for Cleveland Clinic's Global Center for Pathogen & Human Health Research, part of the Cleveland Innovation District. The center, supported by a \$500 million investment from the State of Ohio, Jobs Ohio and Cleveland Clinic, brings together a team focused on studying, preparing and protecting against emerging pathogens and virus-related diseases, and promoting human health in general. Through the



Discovery Accelerator, researchers are leveraging advanced computational technology to expedite critical research.

In 2025, Cleveland Clinic and Miami University announced its partnership to advance education in quantum computing and to elevate Ohio's global position in this transformative field. Through this partnership, Ohio's first specialized degree programs and research experiences in quantum computing have been established. This initiative also will cultivate scientific and entrepreneurial talent to develop companies, elevate businesses, and advance organizations that leverage quantum computing.

The partnership advances each institution's mission by delivering innovative, comprehensive educational offerings in quantum computing and its healthcare applications to meet the accelerating talent and workforce demands of the growing quantum computing industry in the Cleveland area. This includes the creation of specialized degree programs, integration with the Cleveland Innovation District, synergy between healthcare and quantum computing, and workforce development and internship opportunities. These plans are a direct response to the growing demand for quantum computing expertise, with projections estimating that the quantum computing industry could grow to \$65 billion globally by 2030.

Ohio has already seen significant returns on its investments in quantum computing:

- Cleveland Clinic has surpassed its expected job creation goals to the Innovation District, largely due to the Discovery Accelerator initiatives.
- The Quantum Catalyzer program, started by Cleveland Clinic in 2024, evolved 1 year after inception to include Venture Capital support to attract start-ups applying quantum in healthcare and life sciences.
- The state's leadership in quantum computing is attracting attention from industries across the nation, with companies increasingly considering Ohio for relocations and expansions due to its robust ecosystem. An example is Canon medical now with its US presence here in Cleveland.
- Cleveland Clinic is the one Ohio representation on the newly created Advisory Committee to the Office of Science at the US department of energy, tasked with overseeing the nation's national labs and research in physical sciences (>\$8B budget for 2026).
- Cleveland Clinic is ranked second globally through the Quantum Innovation Index in healthcare and life sciences: the only healthcare system on the list, ranked among global pharmaceutical industries, thrusting Ohio's leadership to the global stage.

However, Ohio's competitive positioning is not guaranteed. Neighboring states are investing heavily in quantum technologies, threatening to outpace Ohio if we do not act decisively. For example:

- Illinois, through Chicago's quantum initiatives, has established itself as a national leader in quantum research with federal investments exceeding \$200 million. The University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory are driving advancements in quantum science, attracting talent and businesses to the region. Illinois has two seats in Advisory Committee to the Office of Science.
- Pennsylvania, through its Pittsburgh Quantum Institute, is fostering collaborations between academia and industry, positioning itself as a hub for quantum innovation.
- Michigan has recently announced initiatives to integrate quantum computing into automotive and manufacturing industries, leveraging its industrial base to gain a competitive edge.



Ohio must act now to maintain and grow its leadership in this transformative field. House Bill 650 is critical to achieving this goal. By establishing the Frontier Technologies and Quantum Commission, Ohio will create a platform to guide policies, investments, and strategies that ensure we remain at the forefront of quantum computing innovation. The Commission will provide policymakers and stakeholders with the expertise needed to navigate the opportunities and challenges posed by quantum technologies, positioning Ohio as a leader in this rapidly evolving landscape. The potential economic impact of quantum computing for Ohio is immense. Beyond job creation, quantum computing can catalyze industry relocations, foster start-up growth, and attract federal research funding, all of which contribute to the state's economic prosperity. Ohio has already demonstrated its ability to achieve returns on investment through initiatives like the Cleveland Innovation District, and House Bill 650 will ensure that we continue to build on this success.

We are grateful for the legislature's investment in this partnership between Cleveland Clinic and Miami University through funding in the recent state operating budget. We are hopeful that the legislature will continue to support initiatives, like House Bill 650, which are focused on these areas.

Once again, Cleveland Clinic supports House Bill 650 and asks the committee to be supportive as well. We thank the sponsor, Representative Heidi Workman, for introducing this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.