



Proponent Testimony on House Bill 650

Before the House Technology and Innovation Committee

February 24, 2026

Chairman Claggett, Vice Chair Workman, Ranking Member Mohamed, and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, I am Tom Walsh, associate vice president of state relations at The Ohio State University, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 650. I am joined today by Dr. Ronald M. Reano and Dr. Ezekiel Johnston-Halperin, co-directors of Ohio State's Center for Quantum Information Science & Engineering (CQISE). The Center was established in 2022 to help create a comprehensive framework to advancing quantum information and technology through research, education and outreach with industry, research and government partners.¹

The commission created under HB 650 is both timely and critical to developing state-level strategies in this area, and we applaud Representative Workman for introducing and advancing this important legislation.

Over the past 15 years, quantum innovation has undergone a broad and fundamental shift into what is now commonly referred to as Quantum 2.0 – with its focus on quantum information, which encompasses, for example, quantum computing, quantum communications and networking, and quantum sensing. Many economists estimate that the economic impact from quantum information may be as high as \$800 billion per year by 2040, which will require private sector quantum innovation, research & development, workforce development, and public sector strategies to all be aligned in order to best position Ohio as an industry leader.

By establishing a commission to develop a statewide framework with the economic, security, regulatory issues, HB 650 will help Ohio to attract industry, federal, university and other research partners and funding opportunities into this state. As the important role that quantum information plays in the global economy grows, opportunities for investments with government and industry partners will also increase dramatically. For example, the National Science Foundation (NSF)² and the Trump Administration's Office of Science and Technology Policy³ have both recently identified quantum information as one of the primary areas of increased investments as part of the Federal R&D portfolio. Building

¹ Center for Quantum Information Science and Engineering, The Ohio State University: <https://quantum.osu.edu/about>

² Quantum Information Science, NSF: <https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/quantum>

³ FY 2027 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities and Cross-Cutting Actions memo, OMB and Office of Science and Technology Policy: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/M-25-34-NSTM-2-Fiscal-Year-FY-2027-Administration-Research-and-Development-Budget-Priorities-and-Cross-Cutting-Actions.pdf>

a coordinated statewide approach and framework of priorities and policies will be critical for Ohio to attract new industry and federal partners to the state.

Ohio State appreciates Representative Workman for advancing this important legislation and for her willingness to work with numerous stakeholders to seek input on this complex issue. We understand that there may be amendments being considered to HB 650. As the committee considers changes to the bill, we would recommend changing the Commission to include “Quantum Information” rather than just “Quantum Computing.” This technical, albeit important, change will help strengthen the important message that the State’s policy and investment strategies will focus on all the critical pillars of quantum information that are driving the technological and economic impacts for the Buckeye state.

Chairman Claggett and members of the House Technology and Innovation Committee, once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 650. As this bill moves forward, Ohio State stands ready to provide any technical expertise and we look forward to continuing to work with Representative Workman, committee members and other partners.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

