

**Testimony of Kelly McClaskey, 5th Grade Science Teacher at Miami Trace Elementary School before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Kelly McClaskey and I am a 5th grade teacher at Miami Trace Elementary School. During my career, I have spent the majority of my time teaching and focusing on science. To be completely honest, it is one of the best subjects to teach. Watching students explore the world around them and discover that there are scientific explanations behind the patterns they see each and every day is exciting.

The AI Grow Chamber from Farm-Ed has been a hands-on vessel to guide students in those discoveries. Ohio's Nature of Science Standards focus on students becoming scientifically literate by using their observation and inquiry skills. The Grow Chambers Data Dashboard allows students to independently observe the current statistics of our plant we are growing and ask questions about each variable.

Speaking of asking questions, one of my favorite memories was while harvesting and eating our cucumbers from Kirby, several students asked "Why do these cucumbers taste a little like pickles?" Watching the students make connections on where their food actually comes from was fun.