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# State Senator Catherine D. Ingram

9<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

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## **Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 48, Education Committee**

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 48. If enacted this legislation would require that the Auditor of State conducts annual audits of specific funds or accounts in chartered nonpublic schools that receive public money. This legislation is critical for ensuring transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars in Ohio's educational landscape.

Ohio's commitment to expanding educational opportunities through programs like the Educational Choice Scholarship Program has allowed many families to choose the school that best fits their child's needs. However, with the influx of public funds directed to these chartered nonpublic schools, it is essential that we maintain rigorous oversight to ensure these funds are being used appropriately and effectively.

The legislation proposes a routine audit of each chartered nonpublic school receiving public money, including funds from the Educational Choice Scholarship Program, administrative reimbursements, and auxiliary services reimbursements. This is not only a matter of fiscal responsibility but also one of public trust. The public has the right to know that their tax dollars are being spent in ways that genuinely benefit Ohio students and enhance the quality of education across the state.

Senate Bill No. 48 is a crucial step toward ensuring that Ohio's chartered nonpublic schools are held accountable for the public funds they receive. The routine auditing of these schools will not only provide transparency but also protect the interests of Ohio's students and taxpayers. As we continue to expand educational choices, we must do so with the utmost responsibility to ensure the funds allocated are used in the best interests of Ohio's future leaders.

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you again for this opportunity. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.