



## Senate Finance- Written Testimony

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I appreciate your time in reading my written testimony and regret that I am unable to join you in person. I would like to take a moment to strongly urge you to adopt **Amendment SC1121-1**, which restores gifted professional development funding.

In the fall of 2023, I served as a member of the Gifted Funding Accountability Workgroup, which included treasurers, superintendents, teachers, and staff from the Auditor of State's Office. Together, we worked to ensure that gifted funds were used appropriately and to recommend improvements for the accountability and oversight of those funds. Learning that some of these vital resources may now be eliminated is deeply troubling.

I respectfully ask that you adopt **Amendment SC1121-1** to reinstate this critical funding.

Gifted professional development funding is essential to equip general education teachers with the tools and understanding necessary to support the unique needs of gifted students. In Shaker Heights City Schools, where I serve as the Gifted Coordinator, we are currently training 111 gifted service providers. In Orange City Schools, where I serve as a school board member, we have 80 providers in need of the same training. While the funding reductions may not appear substantial on a per-district basis, every dollar is crucial to adequately preparing educators to meet the demands of this unfunded mandate and to ensure that gifted students receive the education they deserve.

Thank you to the members of this committee for your time and attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,

Beth Wilson-Fish  
Gifted Coordinator, Shaker Heights City Schools  
School Board Member, Orange City Schools  
Governing Board Member, Ohio Association for Gifted Children

