



## SENATOR STEVE WILSON

### Senate Finance Committee May 27, 2025 Senate Bill 12

Chairman Cirino, Vice-Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 12. This is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 309 from the previous General Assembly, and the idea behind it came to me from discussions with constituents from the Warren County Foundation.

This legislation accomplishes the following:

1. It permits community foundations to create a component fund of endowments and other charitable funds received by public schools.
2. It permits a public school to appoint a community foundation to invest money in the Education Foundation Fund created under continuing law.
3. And, it classifies a fund held for an institution by a community foundation trustee as an “institutional fund.”

Current law permits public schools to appoint community foundations or other 501(c)(3) organizations to oversee monetary donations and issue scholarships to students. In our initial stakeholder conversations, we found that school districts are already utilizing community foundations as a “tool in their charitable toolbox.” However, the process by which schools can utilize this tool is not exactly clear in the Ohio Revised Code. This legislation corrects that issue and makes explicit that our schools may utilize their local community foundations in order to oversee and organize their charitable funds.

As many of the Members on this Committee understand, our schools already operate under a complex system of accounting and bookkeeping. Under this legislation, a community foundation would be permitted to handle the “backroom responsibilities.” Community foundations throughout Ohio do this kind of work on a daily basis, so I believe it stands to reason, that, if a public school wishes to outsource these responsibilities to their local community foundation partners, then the Ohio Revised Code should be explicit in helping to ease the burden on our schools and school treasurers.

Prior to introducing this bill in the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, I held an Interested Party meeting with all the relevant stakeholders in order to receive feedback on this legislation. I am happy to report that we are unaware of any opposition. With that, thank you again, Chairman Cirino, for the opportunity to testify and for signing on to this bill as a joint sponsor. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.