

Testimony by
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In support of GRF 200597 as part of H.B. 64
“Education Program Support”

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Schuring and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Meka Pace, Principal and Chief Academic Officer of Metro Early College High School

I am in favor of enactment of legislation around the program support for *FIRST* Robotics because of the value I’ve seen through the students at Metro. Integrating *FIRST* into our school curriculum has allowed us a platform to incorporate technology in a new and creative way. Like our Design Challenges, *FIRST* connects to our curriculum and invokes real world problems that must be solved. Using the 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, active and responsible decision making, engagement, inquiry and critical thinking, students work through the design cycle drafting, building and innovating their designs until the task is met. Students are not only learning to craft a successful build of their robots, but they are also learning the vital business skills of marketing, Fiscal Management and project management -skills that will transfer to any career. I am here in support of GRF 200597 because of the impact and opportunity it can provide to students all across the state of Ohio. Metro Early College High School supports the Education Program of *FIRST* Robotics in the State of Ohio.