

John Urbanski
President & CEO, United Way of Hancock County
Ohio Senate Finance Committee Hearing
June 9, 2015

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, Ranking Minority Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide interested party testimony before you today.

My name is John Urbanski and I am the President & CEO of the United Way of Hancock County and a member of the Ohio United Way Board of Directors.

Each year, our local United Ways across Ohio provide funding to over 1,200 community organizations with grants totaling more than \$134 million.

Ohio United Ways are concerned about the language Philanthropy Ohio is seeking to be included in the budget (H.B.64) regarding a tax credit for gifts to endowments at qualified community foundations. We do not believe their definition of "qualified" as currently included in H.B. 128 encompasses all of the key stakeholders who focus on improving the lives of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens. Not only does it not include all of the stakeholders who use charitable dollars to provide support and a hand-up in an effort to provide our poorest citizens a pathway to self-sufficiency; it also excludes Ohio's many faith based community foundations from receiving the proposed state tax credit. As proposed in H.B. 128 the legislation would provide qualified community foundations with a fundraising advantage over the many other organizations that also have endowment funds.

United Ways support Philanthropy Ohio and their fundraising efforts. As a matter of fact, a few of them are members of Philanthropy Ohio (5 of 82) and sit on their board; and have staff who are members of Philanthropy Ohio's public policy committee. These United Ways have also expressed their lack of support for H.B. 128 and have communicated their concerns to the leadership of Philanthropy Ohio.

We believe and respectfully request that any tax credit designed to increase charitable giving in Ohio should include all Ohio 501(c)3 tax exempt organization's charitable contribution to a permanent endowment fund.

Ohio United Way has provided suggested language to members of the Ohio House and Senate and would be happy to provide additional copies of the language.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony as an interested party. I will be happy to answer any questions.