



STEM Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program for Students to Help Develop Ohio's Future Workforce

Popularly Known as the “*Believe in Ohio Student STEM Innovation & Scholarship Program*”

Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Committee. I am offering this written testimony in support of Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110, “STEM Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program for Students to Help Develop Ohio's Future Workforce”, which continues funding of what is more popularly known as the “Believe in Ohio Student STEM Innovation and Scholarship Program”.

My name is Angela McMurry. I am a high school Biology/AP Biology and Environmental Biology teacher at Arcanum High School in Darke County. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about my support for the Believe in Ohio program and how supporting this program will give back to the rural counties of Ohio.

It has been my honor to work with the students of Darke County for the last 8 years as a Science Curriculum Coordinator and now back as a classroom teacher. This last year has been particularly challenging for all of the students but the opportunities to participate in authentic research and discovery have helped them persevere through this chaotic time in education. It has been inspiring to see them think “outside the box” and challenge the status quo. The resources provided to teachers from the Believe in Ohio program have been relevant to connecting Ohio Learning Standards for Science to real-world application. Due to the Covid restrictions, traditional laboratory opportunities have become near impossible for students to complete. However, STEM entrepreneurial activities presented in the Believe in Ohio curriculum have been useful in the current classroom setting.

The Believe in Ohio program is timely, pertinent and inspiring. Furthermore, the program is free for students and provides continuing learning opportunities for teachers when so many district budgets have been cut. The program is truly accessible to all Ohio students...if they have the will to be creative and dream big, they can reach for success through the Believe in Ohio program. The skills and success they gain through this program will inspire the next generation of Ohio business owners and taxpayers which will in turn support the next generation. This program is truly win/win for all constituents involved.

On behalf of the students in our state, and our future, I urge you to support Amendment SC2521X1 to Substitute House Bill 110 which continues funding of the Believe in Ohio Program.

Thank you for believing in and investing in our future.

May 14, 2021