



**Proponent testimony submitted to the  
Senate Health Committee  
Sub. House Bill 110  
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Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Substitute House Bill 110. My name is Dr. Dorothy Moulthrop, and I am the CEO of Open Doors Academy (ODA). ODA provides out-of-school time (OST) enrichment to kids and young adults each year across five school districts in Northeast Ohio and Lima. We also partner with organizations in Dayton and Cincinnati on special projects. We are an independent, non-profit organization, and our mission is to protect, inspire, nurture, and challenge youth to reach their full potential. **The legislature recognized ODA’s work in the prior budget, including an earmark of \$2.2 million each fiscal year in TANF funds for OST programming. We’re grateful that Substitute House Bill 110 includes continued funding with a slight increase to \$2.3 million each fiscal year for this purpose, and I ask for your support to retain this funding in the bill.**

ODA is unique as the only program in Northeast Ohio that offers year-round support to youth beginning in middle school and extending through high school graduation and beyond. We provide programs for kids and families in middle school, high school, postsecondary, family engagement, and summer learning. In the 2019-2020 school year, ODA enrolled 385 students across 11 schools in four districts. The majority of our scholars are African American and come from low income families. In fact, over 90% of our kids and families live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Our model is research-based and built on the belief that providing youth with a safe environment, caring adult relationships, and strong community partnerships builds a solid foundation to achieve their academic and career goals. We believe our outcomes speak to the success of our model: last year, 81% of ODA students improved their math proficiency and since 2018, 93% of ODA students graduated high school.

ODA launched the Center for Out-of-School Advancement (COSA) in 2018 to elevate the field of OST education and programming as a key to breaking the cycle of multi-generational poverty. The Ohio Department of Education has recognized ODA's expertise in OST education, partnering with COSA to provide professional development and regional trainings to over 200 other OST programs across Ohio that serve over 40,000 kids. The map in my testimony represents schools and organizations that COSA currently works with across the state. COSA strengthens the OST field for programs in Ohio that are recipients of Ohio's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants via a three-prong approach: helping OST programs build organizational capacity, conducting high quality research that promotes innovative models, and advocating for the field.



Recognizing that students needed additional support during the 2020-2021 school year to participate in online academic instruction, ODA opened nine Remote Learning Centers where over 525 students in grades K-8 participate in their online academic instruction with *in-person support and supervision* from the ODA team. We quickly realized that parents needed safe childcare options for the school year with reliable internet and technology, and kids needed additional support for their learning, development, and social emotional well-being.

Demand for OST programming remains high. For every child in an after school program there are three children on a waitlist. Demand is especially high for summer programming this year. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we are on track to support over 700 youth in summer camps. This is roughly triple the number of youth we have served in previous summer camps. Continued state support will allow ODA to maintain existing programs, and to continue expansion efforts in other areas of the state to work with children across Ohio to reach their full potential.

Again, I ask that you support dedicated funds for ODA currently included in Sub. House Bill 110. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about this request.