

Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 222
Government Oversight and Reform
Chair, Senator Bill Coley
Wednesday, November 22, 2018

Good morning, Chairman Coley, Vice-Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 222, which would name the Department of Education's central office building as the "Governor Ted Strickland Department of Education Building".

Theodore "Ted" Strickland, a tireless advocate of public education, was the 68th Governor of Ohio, serving from 2007-2011. Throughout his term as Ohio's Governor, Ted Strickland was a champion for Ohio's schools and more and fairer educational funding.

Under Governor Strickland's leadership, the state's higher education system was unified in 2007 by creating the University System of Ohio, which is the third largest public university system in the United States. Governor Strickland demonstrated his commitment to bold, informed and courageous reform with the passing of House Bill 1 in 2009. The enactment of this historic, comprehensive education plan, for the first time, addressed Ohio's unconstitutional school funding system. At the heart of this plan was the Ohio Evidence Based Model, which changed the way Ohio schools are funded by utilizing research to encourage school districts in improving the performance of Ohio's students. It transformed Ohio classrooms and strengthened the teaching profession to prepare students with the critical skills necessary for the 21st century workplace and for higher education. During one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, Governor Strickland protected state funding for Ohio's schools. For his pioneering efforts, the Education Commission of the States honored Ohio as the winner of the 2010 Frank Newman Award for State Innovation.

The request for this legislation was made by a constituent and it is an honor to recognize former Governor Ted Strickland.

Chairman Coley and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention and consideration of this legislation. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.