



November 7, 2018

The Honorable Jay Hottinger
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Hottinger:

On behalf of Education First Credit Union and our over 13,000 members, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 292, which comprehensively modernizes the Ohio Credit Union Act. As the President and Chief Executive Officer, I am directly involved in serving our 13,600 members in our local community.

Education First Credit Union chooses the state charter because it allows us to provide a higher level of member service than the federal charter. As a state charter, we also contribute to our local and state economies by directly funding the credit union division of the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions, employing Ohio residents, and paying sales and real estate taxes, among other items. For these reasons, it's important for Education First Credit Union to remain a state charter, which requires the state system to be routinely examined and improved. In fact, in 2001, we converted our charter from federal to state based on local decision-making.

The following provisions of Senate Bill 292 would be most beneficial to nearly 3 million Ohioans and credit unions board of directors and staff:

- Provides technical changes to modernize operations
- Empowers credit unions to focus more on member services
- Encourages flexibility and choice in delivering value to member-owners

These are just a few of the many benefits provided by Senate Bill 292, which will keep the state charter a competitive option for Ohio's credit unions.

On behalf of our staff, board of directors, and members, we appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you on securing passage of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wettrich
President and CEO
Education First Credit Union, Inc.