**State Representative Catherine D. Ingram**

**Higher Education—** *Ranking Member*

**Primary & Secondary Education**

**Economic & Workforce Development**

**Broadcast Educational Media Commission**

**Joint Legislative Committee on E-School Funding**

**77 S. High Street, 10th Floor**

**Columbus, OH 43215**

**(614) 466-1645**

**rep32@ohiohouse.gov**

**Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 185**

**Economic and Workforce Development Committee**

**May 14, 2019**

Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki, and my esteemed colleagues of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 185.

First let me say that JobsOhio is definitely having a grand impact on Ohio, in Ohio. Since their inception, many jobs have been created and companies have been assisted in retaining jobs and investing billions of dollars in our great State.

Because they are driving Ohio’s economic future, they have been recognized for their accomplishments by Guide Star for their transparency and by the Ohio Association of Non-Profits with the Seal of Excellence. I applaud them for that. But, JobsOhio is not your ordinary not-for-profit here in Ohio.

House Bill 185 is a bill establishing that records kept by JobsOhio are subject to inspection and copying under Ohio Public Records Law. In addition to being subject to inspection, the bill also requires all meetings of the JobsOhio Board of Directors to be open to the public, except when in executive session.

Under current Ohio law, JobsOhio, an economic development agency contracting with the Development Services Agency, is not subject to performance evaluation or required to provide transparency in many areas of their operation. Though created by the Governor in the last administration, the circumstances under which they were created require that their transparency go well beyond that of a regular vendor. There must be a way for all concerned Ohioans to be certain that the agency is working for all Ohioans.

Although this agency is deemed “private” it is in the best interest of the public that their records become open as are all other departments, agencies and organizations. Though funding is creative it is still Ohio taxpayer dollars.

This is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that provides greater transparency to an organization that has the power to choose where to invest, how to invest, and in what capacity in communities across our state. We deserve the right to know where things went right, where things went wrong and how often this occurs.

Chairman Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee, I thank you for your time, and I will be happy to answer any questions at this time.