



November 14, 2022

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski and members of the Civil Justice Committee,

On behalf of Philanthropy Ohio – a membership association that leads and equips Ohio philanthropy to be effective partners for change in our communities – I am writing to you today to strongly encourage you to oppose the adoption of the amendment being offered to SB 199 concerning endowments. This amendment would have a dramatic impact on our members.

We oppose this amendment as we do not believe these changes to be necessary, and see no evidence of widespread problems within the sector that this amendment seeks to address. Should the legislature wish to examine this section of the Ohio Revised Code, it deserves to be framed in a separate, stand-alone bill with substantial time devoted to examining its purpose and impacts.

Secondly, we oppose this amendment on behalf of Ohio's 85 community foundations, who hold \$8.5 billion in assets and annually award grants exceeding \$565 million. Additionally, they receive millions of dollars in such endowed gifts and already set such restrictions included in their agreements with donors and honor them. In addition to their legal obligation contained in signed donor agreements, our foundations have numerous incentives for honoring these restrictions. They possess a deep commitment and passion to improving the lives of community residents with the dollars entrusted to them.

This proposed amendment to Senate Bill 199 should not, in our opinion, be the vehicle for such critical changes and additions to the rights of donors under Ohio law and applied to community foundations as well as to the over 40,000 nonprofits operating in the Buckeye State.

For your reference, I have included a list of Ohio's community foundations. As you can see, should this language be amended and passed the impact would be far reaching including those that reach your constituents.

We are here to assist you and to assure that Ohio's community foundations and their generous donors are not harmed or dis-incentivized from supporting the organizations and causes they care about. Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Deborah Aubert Thomas  
President & CEO

Carrie Arblaster  
Vice President, Public Policy

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