



Rep. Adam Miller and Rep. Lisa Sobecki
Sponsor Testimony regarding HB 39 – Increases the Public Library Fund; Allocates Funding (As Prepared)

Before the House Finance Committee
November 16, 2022

Thank you Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 39.

Today, public libraries are critical resources for our communities in Ohio, going far beyond lending books and other materials. Libraries provide support for our students, programming for families, workforce development, language and literacy services, and much more.

To support our public libraries in their mission, we introduced House Bill 39 creating the “21st Century Library Fund.” The 21st Century Library fund is supplemental funding in addition to the Public Library Fund. This will contribute to health and safety efforts, after school programs, cultural events, workforce development, community engagement, technology improvements, language services, and literacy programs. Many libraries already provide many of these services for today’s visitors.

For example, the Toledo Lucas County Public libraries support residents’ health by regularly hosting Community Nurses who conduct free flu shots and blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight screenings. The Hilltop Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, offers story-times for young readers, courses on digital skills, high school equivalency classes, and ESOL classes for non-native speakers. The services that these libraries provide are integral to supporting and improving our communities in the 21st century, and we have a duty to fund these efforts.

Members of the House Finance Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and we encourage you to support House Bill 39 for the constituents of your community or rely on your local libraries.