1735 Scottsdale Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43235 10/04/2021

Dear Finance Committee,

Greetings.

My name is Rosaire Ifedi. I am a Commissioner on the Ohio New African Immigrants Commission (NAIC), the inaugural and past Chair of the NAIC, and a Professor at Ashland University, residing in Columbus, Ohio in Franklin County.

Our <u>SB 148</u> will go through a second hearing this Tuesday 10/5. I am writing to urge you to kindly support this much-needed bill.

As you might be aware, Ohio's 60,000 plus African Immigrants play an important role in keeping your district and the State of Ohio socially and economically vibrant. For instance, these immigrants have an estimated economic impact of \$2.6 billion on the state.

SB 148 will enable us to continue working to ensure the success of African Immigrants in our District and Ohio in general.

I look forward to your positive response to this bill. I would be happy to chat with you about it if needed.

Sincerely, Dr. Rosaire Ifedi Associate Professor Commissioner, Ohio New African Immigrants Commission (NAIC) Faculty Senate President