



**Senate Education Committee
Testimony of Alesha Washington
Vice President, Government Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
September 27, 2017**

Chairwoman Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Alesha Washington and I am the Vice President of Government Advocacy at the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 170 that will create academic content standards and model curriculum for computer science in Ohio.

GCP is the largest chamber of commerce in the State of Ohio representing 8,500 small, mid-market and large companies across Northeast Ohio. Our mission is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and leverage investment to improve the economic vitality of our region. We do that in many ways, including advocating for education reform efforts that ensure more students leave school prepared for college and/or career.

House Bill 170 compliments this core focus and is supported by our membership as a positive step to ensure students have greater career exposure opportunities early on in their education. For these reasons, we offer our support and welcome the opportunity – upon passage of this legislation – to work with the Ohio Department of Education and other key stakeholders to ensure the content standards and curriculum are designed to be relevant and responsive to critical needs in the Information Technology and STEM career fields.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.