



**HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
HOUSE BILL 110 TESTIMONY
Sandusky Library – Molly Carver
March 11, 2021**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill (HB) 110 on behalf of Sandusky Library.

My name is Molly Carver. I am the Executive Director of Sandusky Library, located in Sandusky, Erie County, and part of Representative Swearingen's House District 89.

My testimony pertains to the Public Library Fund (PLF) on which Sandusky Library depends for half its annual revenue. The remaining half being collected through local property taxes. Sandusky Library serves populations in Erie County comprised of four school districts, and including City of Sandusky, Village of Castalia, and Kelleys Island.

The Public Library Fund is crucial to Ohio's 251 library systems that depend on it to deliver essential services to all residents of Ohio. Twenty percent of Ohio's libraries depend on the PLF as their sole source of funding. The Public Library Fund is at risk of being reduced unless the budget is amended to sustain PLF funding at its current level. Now is not the time for funding to Ohio's public libraries to lose funding. Ohio residents need library services now more than ever for urgent access to:

- Internet to apply for unemployment, search for jobs, and register for COVID-19 vaccinations,
- Books and support materials for students and their parents,
- Accurate information about health and wellness and a broad spectrum of material, and
- Electronic and other resources for small businesses.

Despite the pandemic, Sandusky Library continued essential services to the public, including: Tax forms and online filing, 2020 Census outreach, voter information and registration, Wi-fi access, E-books and other electronic resources, technology training online, food distribution, LinkedIn Learning and other educational opportunities, virtual story time and book discussions. Many of these resources are available online 24/7.

Libraries - and your constituents - need your action to:

- Sustain the Public Library Fund at its current level of 1.7% of the General Revenue Fund (GRF), and
- Hold libraries harmless from any changes made to the tax code that could impact tax receipts to the Public Library Fund. We understand that 1.7% of the GRF can fluctuate with the economic recovery but must not be harmed with formula changes.

We urge you, make public library funding a top priority in the House budget! Thank you for your time.