



Chris Widener, FAIA
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Standing Committees

Rules and Reference – Vice Chair
Education
Finance Sub Committee on Workforce
Government Oversight and Reform
Medicaid
Ways and Means

Boards and Commissions

Controlling Board
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

March 4, 2015

Re: Community Connectors grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share my support of the Community Connectors grant application being submitted by the Nehemiah Foundation in partnership with Springfield City School District, three other Clark County school districts, and local employers. This grant application builds on very important collaboration which is aligned to making students more successful in their pursuits after high school. The strength of this application is the engagement of the faith based and other community organizations and employers that also won the schools a significant Straight A grant. Leveraging that investment of state dollars by expanding its reach makes good sense and I applaud the applicants for their innovative and collaborative approach.

I am personally well acquainted with these partners and their capacity to implement a collaborative mentoring program to better link the schools, the afterschool environment, community organizations, and our faith-based organizations.

If the grant is awarded to Nehemiah Foundation and Springfield City School District, Clark Shawnee Local Schools, the Clark County Career Technology Center, and the Global Impact STEM Academy, their business partners, and our community will clearly benefit. Employing a consistent framework to better link mentors to our schools is critically important if we are to harness the commitment of various parties and align them to give our youth hope and set them on pathways to careers which are meaningful to them. I strongly support this application and hope that also find it worth supporting. It will provide needed to the youth and the committed mentors in Clark County.

For these reasons, I ask that you give full and fair consideration this application. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at (614) 466-3780 or by email at widener@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Widener", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Widener
State Senator
10th District