



**Ohioana Library Testimony  
Sunset Review Committee  
November 30, 2015**

Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee:

My name is David Weaver and I am the Executive Director of the Ohioana Library Association (OLA); which, since it was founded in 1929 by Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper, has represented a public/private partnership between the state of Ohio and a not-for-profit organization.

Ohioana's mission is to collect, preserve, and celebrate Ohio literature and other creative endeavors. Ohioana serves not just as the collector and caretaker of Ohio's literary treasures, but also as the primary organization that fosters and celebrates the writing and reading of Ohioans.

We fulfill our mission through three major programs:

- Collection and Reference, which includes the development and maintenance of over 75,000 items by Ohioans or about Ohio subjects;
- Educational Outreach, which includes the *Ohioana Quarterly*, a copy of which is sent to every member of the Ohio House and Senate, and the Ohio Literary Map, a new edition of which will be introduced this January;
- Public Programming, which includes the annual Ohioana Awards and Ohioana Book Festival, and educational partnerships, including the Choose to Read Ohio in collaboration with the State Library of Ohio and Poetry Out Loud competition in collaboration with the Ohio Arts Council.

Through its collection, publications, events, and partnerships, the Ohioana Library directly serves more than 100,000 Ohioans per year.

We accomplish this with a small staff that consists of three full-time employees: an Executive Director, Librarian/Editor, and Office Manager. By comparison, we had a staff of six in 2009. Ohioana employees are not state employees, and do not participate in PERS or other state benefits.

We augment our staff by contracting help during major projects such as the Ohioana Book Festival, and by offering two paid internships to college students. Most of all, we are fortunate to have more than 100 volunteers, led by the Ohioana Board of Trustees. Our governing board is comprised of between 20 and 28 trustees elected by the membership and four trustees appointed by the Governor of Ohio. The First Lady of Ohio serves as an ex-officio member of the board. All board members are volunteers and serve without compensation or stipend.

In FY2006, the State of Ohio's operating subsidy of \$200,000 represented 65% of Ohioana's total operating income. In FY2016, the State of Ohio's operating subsidy of \$155,000 will represent 46.5% of total operating income.

Ohioana leverages its state subsidy to generate support from individuals, foundations, and organizations throughout Ohio. One major role of our trustees is to generate this private support, which is why our board includes representatives from major corporations such as Honda and Huntington Bank and law firms.

In closing, we believe that the State of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association has been a collaboration that has served the people of Ohio well for more than 85 years. Ours is a model of what a successful private/public partnership can be. We are asking for that partnership to continue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd be pleased to answer any questions.

David Weaver  
November 30, 2015