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June 12, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Dobama Theatre, Cleveland's professional Off-Broadway Theatre, is proud to submit this letter of support for Dr. Mary E. Weems' play SOCKS. This powerful piece had a staged reading at Dobama this past May, which was directed by Michael Oatman and performed by Tamicka Scruggs. Through direct address to the audience, SOCKS tells the story of a young Cleveland girl kidnapped by sex traffickers: her life with her mother before the ordeal, the surreal and terrifying place she finds herself in, how she survives and her path forward.

Dr. Weems is a member of Dobama's Playwrights' GYM, our professional playwriting unit. Through her work, she brings to light issues that resonate with the greater Cleveland community, and SOCKS is no exception. With Ohio ranking fourth in the nation in human trafficking, this is a story that needs to be told here - both as a call to action and as a warning to society's most vulnerable.

The nature of the play (needing only a solo performer and minimal setting) lends itself to being presented in various locations, such as in classrooms, art galleries, conference centers, or in more traditional theatrical venues. The current length of SOCKS also allows other audience engagement events to accompany it, for example, artist/expert discussions or a longer program featuring other like-minded pieces.

Thank you for your consideration of this important piece.

Sincerely,



Managing Director
Dobama Theatre