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Honorable Mike Duffey
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Chair Duffey, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee,

It is a pleasure to stand before you today to provide interested party testimony on House Bill 66.

To introduce myself, my name is Daniel Palmer. I am the Chief Justice for the Student Government Association assembled at Wright State University. With my role as Chief Justice, I have served on or currently serve on various university committees including the Undergraduate Student Success Committee (USSC), Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee (UAPC), and the Student Legal Services Review Board.

Recently, I was elected as the Executive Director for the Ohio Student Government Association that advocates for roughly 400,000 students within our public, four year education system.

The proposed legislation opens up with stating that, "Students are entitled to receive full value for their investment in both their university and their education." As a student, this statement resonates most with me. This stuck out because my largest investment to date is my investment to better myself through obtaining an education at Wright State University. Students recognize the importance of education and their investment. Like any other investment, we expect great returns.

The role tenured faculty play in education is huge. They are regarded as experts in their respective fields and provide invaluable instruction to the students they serve. I can honestly say that my educational experience with tenured faculty at Wright State University has been excellent.

With this in mind, students appreciate the efforts made by legislators to ensure that the quality of education remains high and that the undergraduate mission continues to be the utmost priority of universities across the state of Ohio.

The formation of a committee is a step in the right direction and I believe that the Undergraduate Mission Study Committee is a step in the right direction. However, I am concerned with the absence of students on this proposed legislation.

First, we understand the current system and how it affects the student body. We have the ability to put proposals into perspective, as it will directly affect us. Students are the ones sitting in the classrooms daily, listening and learning. Students visit office hours and directly communicate with tenured faculty.

Additionally, many have a seat at the table including faculty, legislators, and the chairperson of the Ohio Faculty Council. I believe that a stakeholder, the students, could provide an invaluable voice to this committee to ensure that we are solving the problems that directly affects the students.

On behalf of students across Ohio, I hope that this committee will consider revising HB 66 to include students in the Undergraduate Mission Study Committee.

The education we are receiving in Ohio helps to determine our futures. Students should have the ability to assist in the governing process of the education we receive.

Chairman Duffey and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, I sincerely thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.