

Thank you Chairman Green, Vice-Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Shehy, and all members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak today on behalf of St. Xavier High School. My name is Cathy Cionni and I am the Director of X-Travaganza, the largest fundraising event for St. Xavier High School. I have been a member of the St. Xavier community as a parent and now employee at the school since 2011.

St. Xavier is an all-male Jesuit high school in Cincinnati that serves more than 1,500 young men. I am here as a proponent of the bill that would allow the sale of St. Xavier High School license plates. As stated in House Bill 290, the contributions made from the license plates will be split. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go towards tuition assistance and the remaining amount will pay expenses the school incurs in providing services to students to assist in developing or maintaining their mental and emotional well-being.

For more than 186 years, St. Xavier has maintained excellent educational programs, while at the same time making significant amounts of tuition assistance available to academically qualified students. This year, more than \$4.1 million was distributed to 42 percent of St. Xavier's student body. The school remains a viable option for a broad range of students, resulting in a balanced, well-rounded and diverse student population.

Mental health is a growing problem in the United States, especially surrounding teenagers. In response, St. Xavier has created a variety of programs for our students. As a Jesuit school we focus on "cura personalis" or care for the whole person. In the past few years, we have created programs intended to support the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual needs of our students, as well as educational opportunities for our parents, faculty and staff. Formal programs like Brothers on a Journey (for those who have experienced loss), Meditation and a Meal (a support group for students who need a safe and quiet space), X-ceptance (a safe space for all students) as well as social skills and building resilience groups, help our students with anxiety and depression. A formal educational series surrounding these topics has also been created for parents and the entire student body.

Our mission is to assist young men in their formation as leaders and *Men for Others* through rigorous college preparation in the Jesuit tradition. Increased revenue for both of these important programs will truly impact our students as we prepare them for the world.

The Long Blue Line has been adopted as the name of our more than 18,000 living alumni around the globe. The values and lessons they learn, and the brotherhood they form with their classmates, is something that changes them for the better. The sale of St. Xavier themed license plates will allow the pride of St. Xavier to shine, while supporting the many important programs for future members of the Long Blue Line.