



EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 11/6/17

Name: Julie Garke

Address: 391 E. Columbus St.
St. Henry, OH 45883

Telephone: 419-678-4834

Organization Representing: St. Henry Cons. Local Schools

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 216

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: none



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Today's Date 11/6/17

Name: Eric Rosenbeck

Address: 391 E. Columbus St.

St. Henry, OH 45883

Telephone: 419-678-4834

Organization Representing: St. Henry Cons. Local Schools

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 216

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: none

November 6, 2017

Dear Chairperson Lehner, Vice-Chair Huffman and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee.

My name is Julie Garke and I am the Superintendent of St. Henry Local School District in Mercer County and this is Eric Rosenbeck, High School Principal at St. Henry. I would like to thank Sen. Huffman for his work with this bill and to the committee for proceeding with the hearings today.

As a member of the educational field for over twenty-five years, I have seen the increased demands put on our students, staff and families. I believe that SB 216 is the first step in beginning to collaborate as educators and legislators in promoting the best interest of public school children in Ohio. For too many years, local districts, the Ohio Dept. of Education and the legislature have operated as separate entities doing what they feel is best for their organization. Because of that, we have seen many regulations dictated on how schools should be run, instead of allowing for individualization of education for students as decided by local boards of education. Because of this, I fully support the bill as it stands today.

I would like to address the area of College Credit Plus (CCP). First, if the same course is offered at both a student's district and the corresponding College Credit Plus college/university, require the students to take the course at the district level.

- Leadership in schools is just as important as leadership in business, government, the military ... you name it. Some of the best student leaders are leaving local high schools to attend College Credit Plus courses off campus. This is leaving a large leadership void in high schools across the state, and as a result, is negatively affecting school climate and culture.
- High School Students are dodging rigorous high school English Language Arts Teachers in order to take easier English professors at campuses all across the state. Too many students talk and leave to avoid the rigor of high school teachers who challenge and demand excellence of the student(s). In the end, this leads to frustrated college professors and employers as the young adults struggle to communicate effectively on campuses and in businesses across the state of Ohio.
- Community awareness and civic duty to help out our local towns and communities is evaporating. Students are not identifying themselves as Tigers, Rockets or Raiders anymore. With this lack of connection, students are skipping out on Prom, Sporting Events, Band Shows, and other school/community events because they do not feel part of the school/community as much as in years' past. Again, this ultimately hurts everyone as high school students do not feel civic

duty to their community and end up not volunteering or helping as much as young adults - in comparison to past generations.

Second, the cost of Credit College Plus has become a financial burden for school districts. With this bill, it is proposing that 50% of the textbook cost will be paid by the parent/guardian of the student.

- Students are buying the first thing they see because they do not have to worry about the cost. Unfortunately, budgets are really tight for schools across the state and this type of frivolous spending is not fiscally responsible. If students are to take on half the cost, families will start doing as other college students across the state are doing, which is going to Amazon, AbeBooks or other online vendors to save money. For example, *Essentials to Understanding Psychology 11th Edition* is sold used for \$144 and new for \$192 at Wright State Lake Campus. This same book can be bought for \$33.21 off AbeBooks. If 10 students take this course, that is \$1,000 of wasted spending. We need to be fiscally responsible; College Credit Plus students and families currently do not worry about this matter because they do not feel the cost.
- Because of this, some high school guidance counselors and principals have now become textbook specialists. They are spending hours researching textbooks when the course syllabus come out for students and price shopping for books. Local high schools are becoming college bookstores in order to save money for the district. By working together on the shared cost(s) of textbooks, both parties will acquire ownership in regards to textbook costs.

Third, the Ohio Dept. of Education needs to analyze and issue a report regarding the results of cost-effectiveness for students/districts of the College Credit Plus Program.

- Reports should address if College Credit Plus students are going to Ohio Colleges/Universities, staying in college, becoming part time students, and/or graduating a semester early; as a result, are they really growing as individuals and saving money by attending College Credit Plus classes in high school? Today's reports across the state say that \$120,000,000 is being saved on college tuition. Our research locally has shown that students/families are not saving money at anywhere near what the state has issued/projected on their research. When researching students at St. Henry High School, 17 out of 19 students from the class of 2016 are not on track to graduate in less than 4 years. One student is borderline and not sure if she wants to graduate early and one student will graduate early. If College Credit Plus students cannot graduate in less than four years, the focus of saving them and their families money to help shorten their college debt is not happening. To date, St. Henry Schools has spent \$90,000 to

financially benefit less than five students, essentially half of one percent of our entire student population. It is our intent to further examine the effects of College Credit Plus.

Keeping leaders in their local high schools, working together on shared costs of textbooks and consistently evaluating the College Credit Plus program will allow for the best possible future of the education and career readiness for young adults across the state.

Thank you Chairperson Lehner. Are there any follow-up questions?