BEFORE THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE CANDICE KELLER
CHAIR

HOUSE BILL 16
PROONENT TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE JOHNSON
PRESIDENT
INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF OHIO

MARCH 26, 2016
Chair Keller, Vice Chair Riedel, and members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for
the opportunity to present written testimony today on behalf of the state’s fourteen public universities,
all of which are members of the Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC). My name is Bruce Johnson
and I am the President of the IUC.

The IUC was established in 1939 as a voluntary educational association of Ohio’s public universities.
Today, the association represents all of Ohio’s fourteen public universities. The IUC values providing
access to a high quality, affordable education. It is committed to ensuring affordable opportunities for
the more than 329,000 students attending our member institutions without sacrificing the quality of their
education or experience.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, thank you for your support for higher education and the
students we serve. I also would like to thank the sponsor of House Bill 16, Representative Perales, for
his service to this country and his dedication to the men and women in the United States Military. On
behalf of Ohio’s public university presidents, I am pleased to testify in support of House Bill 16.

As you know, the legislation requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to grant Ohio residency to
military service members on active duty, as well as their spouses and dependents, for the purposes of
qualifying for in-state tuition at state institutions of higher education. Ohio’s public universities
recognize and appreciate the commitment of those in uniform who generously and selflessly volunteer to
serve our country. We appreciate the sacrifices made by service members on active duty. We appreciate
those who leave behind a spouse, a child, and loved ones when sent overseas on deployment, sometimes
multiple deployments, missing the birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays with family that those back
home often take for granted. We appreciate those who put on hold their own education and civilian
career to risk their life defending our rights and freedoms. We appreciate the hard work they do, the
risks they take, and we are grateful for their service.

For these reasons, and to give a little something back, we are proud to support this legislation, which
reinforces Ohio’s position as one of the most military service-member friendly states in the country. It
rightly complements the existing Ohio GI Promise program enacted in 2009 that offers a similar benefit
to our veterans, their spouses, and dependents. The IUC views this bill as an incentive to encourage
active duty military from across the country to bring their families, leadership, motivation, and maturity
to Ohio’s public universities. To compete successfully for business investment and jobs, the state must
significantly increase the number of Ohioans with college degrees and other postsecondary credentials.
Offering in-state tuition to active duty service members, their spouses, and dependents, regardless of
residency, will attract some of the brightest and hardest working people in the country to Ohio’s colleges
and universities and they may decide to stay. This initiative can help us reach our Attainment Goal.

I also am proud to point out how Ohio’s public universities are serving our military now. The
University of Cincinnati, for example, has 2,298 military-affiliated students attending the institution,
including its College of Law and College of Pharmacy. The University of Toledo Fall of 2018 military
population consists of 465 students, 48 dependents, 3 spouses and 414 veterans across a variety of
colleges, including its College of Engineering, College of Business and Innovation, and College of
Health and Human Services. Majors range from mechanical engineering to biology to criminal justice.
Ohio State University has 128 active duty students currently enrolled, including undergraduate,
graduate, and professional students. Kent State University serves 740 students and Wright State
University currently enrolls 109 students on active duty in some capacity, 90 of which are graduate students.

While the IUC strongly supports this legislation, I am obliged to point out that it may result in a loss of revenue for Ohio’s public universities. As the Legislative Service Commission Fiscal Note identifies, state institutions generally can charge a higher tuition rate to out-of-state students than they can for in-state students. This out-of-state student surcharge, on average across the thirteen public universities (excluding the Northeast Ohio Medical University), is approximately $4,571 per semester. So, under the bill, state institutions will receive less tuition revenue for active duty personnel and family members who would have otherwise attended an institution at an out-of-state tuition rate because the active duty member or dependents are not stationed or residing in Ohio. However, that is an investment we are happy to make in support of our active duty service members.

Chair Keller, members of the committee, let me once again restate our support for House Bill 16 and our appreciation for the men and women of our armed services on active duty, in the Reserve, the National Guard, and our veterans. I am sure each one of us knows someone who has served or is serving. We owe these individuals a debt of gratitude. I ask your support for this legislation.