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Higher Education— *Ranking Member*
Primary & Secondary Education
Economic & Workforce Development
Financial Institutions
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

State Representative Catherine D. Ingram

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 603
Higher Education Committee
May 12, 2020

Thank you Rep. Lightbody and thank you to my fellow members of the Higher Education Committee. As my joint sponsor, Rep. Lightbody explained, this legislation seeks to immediately provide financial relief due to the hardships the COVID-19 crisis have created.

Not only does this legislation seek to provide financial relief, it also plans for future assistance to institutions of Higher Education by requiring the Chancellor of Higher Education to conduct a study beginning within ninety days after the bill's effective date. This would give the Chancellor ample time to find ways to offer institutions of Higher Education relief and assistance during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as make legislative recommendations to the legislative body.

The COVID-19 crisis has created uncertainty in almost every aspect of our everyday lives and even more so financially. This legislation is incredibly important to give hard working Ohioans and institutions of Higher Education the relief and assistance in times they need it the most.

The study performed by the Chancellor would give us as legislators the tools necessary to help our institutions plan for the future and plan for other crises that may arise.

Even though we are facing unprecedented times and great uncertainty, it is absolutely certain we must act in the best interests of Higher Education and do the work we were elected to do.

As a previous Higher Education educator, school board president and school board member, I have witnessed the importance of education and whatever can be done by this body to provide relief should be our top priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important piece of legislation. Along with Representative Lightbody, I would be happy to answer any questions the committee members may have.

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