

Statement of Chris S. Davies in support of the HB 521:

To Whom it May Concern:

As a clergyperson, there has been extreme ambiguity as to whether or not I qualify for Public Loan Service Forgiveness. I have also witnessed clergy colleagues with the same wonderings in our support groups. It would be amazing to know clearly our status, especially because it takes so much more financial commitment to go to seminary, and for higher educational degrees in ministry. I know that if it were explicit, more people would be likely to pursue higher education.

That is why I support H.B. 521, which will help Ohioans understand if they are eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Especially as the institutions of our churches are consistently challenged by modern climate, the capacity of current congregations to appropriately pay for their clergy is diminishing. The possibility of Loan Forgiveness would be a huge impact for both seminarians and clergy alike; many of whom assume that they are not eligible.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s/

Rev. Dr. Chris S. Davies