

April 11, 2019

Ohio House of Representatives Higher Education Finance Subcommittee Testimony

Kate Malone

Manager of Government & Community Relations

John Carroll University

Good morning, Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education. My name is Kate Malone and I am here today on behalf of the administration, faculty, staff, families, and most importantly the students of John Carroll University.

Representatives Carfagna and Sweeney are well aware of John Carroll and our incredible students. We are proud to count them both as distinguished alumni who have gone on to do great work for the citizens of Ohio.

For those unfamiliar with John Carroll, the University was founded in Cleveland in 1886, and we have been in our current University Heights location since 1935. We are one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States educating men and women in a unique academic tradition that focuses on a strong academic core, leadership development, community service, and care for the whole person.

U.S. News and World Report ranked John Carroll #4, up from #6, among universities in the Midwest offering master's programs and one of the top 10 regional institutions for the 30th consecutive year. We are the #8 "Best Value" among Midwest universities, the #3 "Best College for Veterans" in the Midwest, and the #8 "Most Innovative School" in the Midwest. John Carroll has a 72 percent four-year graduation rate and an 85 percent retention rate. And while I am proud to share these rankings with you, I am most proud to tell you about our students.

John Carroll may be considered small when compared to other higher education institutions in Ohio, but I assure you that our impact is mighty. Our academic tradition means that an investment in our students goes far beyond the classroom. In the 2017-2018 academic year, John Carroll's 3,100 undergraduate students completed over 135,000 hours of community service in Greater Cleveland. Based on the National Volunteer Rate, these hours equate to an estimated economic impact of \$3.24 million in the region. This academic year, students take part in 175 weekly service-learning opportunities with 75 community partners.

Our students graduate then go on to successful and satisfying careers. We have over 25,000 alumni living in Northeast Ohio. Approximately 600 of those alumni either own their own business or are executives at regional companies. Some of our alumni have gone on to serve here in the Ohio Statehouse. Others have gone on to fulfilling careers at the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, University Hospitals, KeyBank, Sherwin-Williams, Progressive Insurance, and the Cleveland Clinic.

As a Jesuit Catholic institution, John Carroll is committed enrolling and graduating Ohio's need-based students. Many need-based students are first generation college students and are part of the fabric of our student body. Federal and state need-based aid, combined with generous institutional aid, makes a John Carroll education accessible and affordable for Ohio's neediest students. The Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) is an essential part of this formula.

In 2009, state funding for OCOG was cut from \$224.9 million over the biennium to just \$76.3 million. In the last 10 years, institutions have filled in the gap for their neediest students. John Carroll absorbed those cuts to ensure that our students could return the following year. We reduced our operating budget and even implemented employee furloughs and layoffs, so that students could complete their John Carroll educations on time.

We are pleased that under Governor DeWine's proposed budget, OCOG is funded at \$148.2 million over the biennium for all eligible students attending Ohio public and independent institutions. This represents a \$47 million dollar increase over the last budget but is still far below what it will take to fully-fund Ohio's need-based aid eligible students.

At John Carroll, we are committed to educating need-based students as it is a fundamental component of the school's Jesuit mission. Approximately 20.5 percent of our students receive Pell grants and 11.5 percent of our students receive OCOG. This funding is essential to what we do. It represents over \$2.9 million and \$1 million direct funding for students respectively.

Additionally, during the 2017-2018 academic year, John Carroll awarded over \$66 million in institutional aid to students.

OCOG funding to a student at John Carroll is an investment in Ohio's future economy. John Carroll students are prepared for jobs when they graduate because they are taught to think critically and are set-up to thrive in an evolving economy. With the help and commitment of state and federal resources for our students, we can continue to graduate students in four years so that they can begin contributing to Ohio's economy. OCOG recipients, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, become teachers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, business owners, and even state legislators who stay in Ohio.

Ohio will only stand to benefit from this investment.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to take any questions.