



Safe Children, Stable Families, Supportive Communities

Ohio Senate
Committee on Higher Education
Testimony on SB69
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Good morning Chairman Kunze, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB69 on behalf of Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's 88 county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.

In addition to helping fill gaps in Ohio's workforce, SB69 is an opportunity to support youth involved with the children services system. College education or technical training can lead a youth into a successful future; one that helps lower the risk for poverty, poor health, or other negative outcomes. This is especially true for youth who have been in foster care. Too often, these young adults struggle to find the resources to pursue higher education or technical training that would help them secure jobs, thus breaking cycles of trauma, poverty, or limited opportunities that they may have faced.

By extending the availability of Ohio College Opportunity Grants to students in non-degree programs, more foster youth will be able to access funding to support their education and training. Because of this, PCSAO supports SB69 and urges its passage. Thank you.