



State Representative Bill Patmon
Sponsor Testimony
HB 118
April 28, 2015

Hello Chairman Hayes, Vice Chairman Brenner, Ranking Member Fedor and fellow members of the House Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony on a bill that I believe is important to curtailing the debt our college students are amassing in college.

House Bill 118 will prohibit state institutions of higher education from charging overload fees to students for taking up to 18 credit hours. To be eligible for graduation at the University of Akron, you must have a minimum of 120 credits in addition to meeting other degree requirements. If a student just went fall and spring semesters each year, he or she would have to average 15 credit hours each semester to graduate in 4 years. To graduate in 3 ½ years, he or she would need to average 17.14 hours a semester and would be paying overload fees for the extra 1-2 hours each semester since UA caps full time status at 16 hours. This bill will also help those who change majors and then fall behind by giving them the ability to take more classes without being penalized. We don't live in a perfect world and the reality is that 80% of college students will change their majors.¹ Some may be lucky and will have a lot of course overlap---others may not be as fortunate.

Again, thank you Chairman Hayes and members of the House Education Committee.

¹ According to the National Center for Education Statistics