

To: Senate Finance, Higher Education Subcommittee, Chair and Members

From: Tawan R. Childs, Senior Student at DeVry University

Date: May 20, 2015

Re: Testimony: HB 64 Main Operating Budget/ Ohio College Opportunity Grant

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance, Higher Education Subcommittee. Thanks for the privilege and opportunity to testify in such a great and historical venue today.

My name is Tawan Childs. I am a current Senior/Student at DeVry University Metro Columbus Branch under the Auspices of President Scarlett Howery. I am scheduled to graduate this semester with a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a concentration on Sales and Marketing. I am employed full-time as an Accounting Administrator at Embassy Suites Dublin and employed part-time for the Union at Kroger Dublin/Bridge Street. By the way, you are always most welcome to visit us in Dublin and we will take care of you.

My interest in House Bill 64 today is as a proponent of more support, improved legislation, and funding for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant at career colleges and schools, like DeVry University. The Ohio College Opportunity Grant significantly contributed to my being able to recently take the Managerial Accounting Course which would have otherwise increased my debt last semester. With the mentorship and reference of DeVry University and its success and career coaching, I was immediately promoted to the Accounting Department from Engineering at the Embassy Suites Dublin by our Executive Team, General Manager and Head Property Accountant. As a student Citizen at a career college, the Ohio College Opportunity Grant is huge and should be increased and funded equally to all students regardless of what type of college they attend.

Mr. Chair and Honorable Subcommittee members, I must tell you that I am a product of you and society's bipartisan commitment to education. I was actually a teenage thug and juvenile offender in Ohio. Because of rehabilitation, accepting responsibility and being given a second chance, I was prepared by programs you and your colleagues funded: GED, School programs, and Reentry programming. I also learned to read, write and speak Spanish and am a classical musician of two instruments—piano and drums. And last year, as a testament of society's goals of success in reintegration and reducing recidivism, I won not only Employee of the month but also Employee of the Year 2014 at Embassy Suites Dublin which is a very Prestigious award in the Global Hospitality Industry under Hilton Hotels. One Scriptural Passage carried me through from beginning to end: Psalms 23 "The Lord is my Shephard, I shall not want...."

With this I will conclude by thanking you Mr. Chairman and the members of this important committee for allowing me to testify today. Mr. Chair if there are any questions or concerns, I will answer and/ or get you the information as soon as possible. Thank You