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The Honorable Andrew Brenner
Chair, House Education and Career Readiness Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Brenner,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for House Bill 108, sponsored by Representative Hagan, which will provide Ohio's students with resources needed to make informed financial decisions affecting their future.

Ohio ranks among the most debt-burdened states for student loans. According to the Institute for College Access and Success, 64 percent of Ohio graduates leave college with student loan debt, ranking Ohio ninth in the nation for proportion of college graduates with student debt. The average Ohio student graduates with \$30,351 in student loan debt.

In order to address student indebtedness and improve the financial well-being of Ohio students, I formed the Student Loan Debt Collection Advisory Group. The group – which was comprised of legislators, college and university representatives, collection experts, and college students – developed 22 recommendations for improving our students' financial futures. Chief among their recommendations was to ensure that all Ohio high school students receive financial literacy education as part of their core curriculum.

The student members of the group remarked that they wished they had received financial literacy education in high school, such as the financial literacy education that is proposed in House Bill 108. We appreciate Representative Hagan's and this committee's willingness to amend the bill to incorporate other legislative recommendations from the group during the bill's last hearing.

House Bill 108 will go a long way to help ensure our students are on the path to long-term success and financial stability. Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to address this important issue.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General