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Honorable Peggy Lehner
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Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

It is a pleasure to stand before you today to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 66 at the invitation of Representative Young.

To introduce myself, my name is Daniel Palmer. I am currently the Chief Justice of Wright State University's Student Government Association, and the Executive Director of the Ohio Student Government Association. As the Executive Director for the Ohio Student Government Association, it is my job to advocate for the over 400,000 students in Ohio's 14 public institutions. In my capacity as Chief Justice and Executive Director, I have testified before the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee and the Ways and Means Committee several times when bills directly affect the students of Ohio.

This morning, I also spoke with the Chancellor of Ohio's Department of Higher Education on the merits of this bill.

The proposed legislation opens up with stating that, "Students are entitled to receive full value for their investment in both their university and their education." As a student, this statement resonates most with me. This stuck out because my largest investment to date is my investment to better myself through obtaining an education at Wright State University. Students recognize the importance of education and their investment. Like any other investment, we expect great returns.

The role tenured faculty play in education is also huge. They are regarded as experts in their respective fields and provide invaluable instruction to the students they serve. I can honestly say that my educational experience with tenured faculty at Wright State University has been excellent.

The formation of the Undergraduate Mission Study Committee will ensure that the university is fulfilling their mission with significant student input. Two students will be able to help contribute to the recommendations to universities to further their undergraduate mission. Lastly, state-sponsored incentive programs will prove to be beneficial to students as instructional quality will increase and potentially costs could decrease (i.e. Faculty could be incentivized to write their own textbook and intellectual property could be purchased to distribute to students at a very reduced cost).

One minor suggestion to enhance the bill's quality, something my colleague will touch on once I finish, is to grant voting rights to the students on this committee. As a student concerned with the quality of education I receive, I want to ensure my input is well received and represented, as we are major players in higher education.

With this in mind, students appreciate the efforts made by legislators to ensure that the quality of education remains high and that the undergraduate mission continues to be the utmost priority of universities across the state of Ohio.

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee, I sincerely thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.