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Honorable Peggy Lehner,
Chair, Ohio Senate Education Committee
1 Capitol Square
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Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking member Sykes, and members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee,

I am proud to speak before you today on behalf students enrolled at one of Ohio's 14 public universities regarding House Bill 66.

To introduce myself, my name is Ivan Mallett. I am the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Ohio Student Government Association as well as a student at Wright State University. In my role as Director of Legislative Affairs, I have been charged with representing the over 400,000 students that attend public institutions of higher learning in Ohio. Since being elected to this position, I have met with over 50 representatives, 10 senators, and as of this morning, the Chancellor of Higher Education. We've discussed issues from free speech on campus to tax free textbooks as well as curbing sexual assault on campuses.

Today, I come to stand and speak in support of House Bill 66, which, if passed, will create an Undergraduate Mission Study Committee. As the first line of the bill states, "Students are entitled to receive full value for their investment in both their university and their education." This statement resonates with me, as I understand that for 18-22 year olds, their largest investment to date will have been in their education. The creation of a committee that is designed to look at and evaluate the return on investment is very important.

At first when the committee was proposed, there were no students on the committee. It wasn't until my co-worker and good friend, Daniel Palmer, testified in the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee that two students were added to the committee.

The OSGA believes this was an important step towards ensuring that students receive full value for their investment in their universities and their education. If we could add one more suggestion to improve this bill and ensure it meets its intent, it would be to allow the two students appointed to this committee to have voting rights. We believe that it is important to not only have a seat at the table in this committee that directly affects students all over Ohio, but also to have a voice in decisions made by the committee.

It is my hope that this Committee will look favorably upon including this small, but important amendment to this bill.

Chair Lehner, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee, I truly appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today and welcome any questions at this time.