



**Testimony of David M. Anderson, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President, State Relations, The Washington Center  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
Ohio House Bill 166  
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Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you. My name is David Anderson and I'm Senior Vice President, State Relations at The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

The Washington Center has partnered with Ohio for over 20 years. Students from private and public colleges and universities receive state scholarships to participate in our program. We have enrolled over 1,800 students with state scholarships since the partnership began.

The Washington Center is located in Washington D.C. and was founded in 1975. We are the largest, independent, nonprofit experiential education organization in the United States.

The Washington Center has played a crucial role in helping students achieve career readiness by connecting motivated students with companies, organizations, congressional offices and federal agencies that exemplify the values of leadership and community service. Nearly all students who participate in our internship program receive academic credit for their semester or summer term in Washington D.C., as we have cooperative agreements with several hundred colleges and universities throughout the United States. After our program, students return to their home states and become vibrant, contributing members of their states' economy.

The Washington Center is the bridge between higher education and professional careers—leveraging all of what D.C. has to offer in order to provide dynamic, experiential learning opportunities to empower and motivate young people to become engaged global citizens.

In Ohio, we have worked with over 30 schools in our 19-year history. The public universities that have sent us students in the last five years are: Bowling Green State University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

The private colleges and universities that have sent us students in the last five years are: Baldwin Wallace University, Capital University, Case Western Reserve University, Hiram College, John Carroll University, Marietta College, Ohio Dominican University, Ohio Northern University, The University of Findlay, Tiffin University, University of Dayton, University of Mount Union, Walsh University, Wilmington College, and Xavier University.

In our Academic Internship Program, students intern 4 days a week at one of the many private companies, nonprofit organizations, congressional offices, and federal agencies that we are partners with. They take an evening course one night a week. On Fridays students participate in



what we call the LEAD Colloquium. LEAD includes the Simpson-Mineta Leaders Series, Career Readiness Modules, and Professional Track/Career Exploration Days.

Students take all that they learn in Washington D.C. from their internship, academic course, as well as our programming, and return and serve their state, whether that be in public service, the private sector or in another capacity.

*They head back to Ohio with business capital, political capital and civic capital.*

We are asking the state legislature for \$350,000 per year in the FY20-21 biennium budget for a total of \$700,000. A yearly appropriation of \$350,000 is a \$150,000 increase from our current appropriation of \$200,000. In the biennium prior to the current one we were funded at a level of \$245,000 a year. In the House version of the budget, we were awarded \$100,000 per year. We are asking the Senate to consider our original request of \$350,000 by adding an additional \$250,000.

State-funded scholarships for Ohio students are currently awarded at the \$2,300 level per student for the fall and spring semesters and \$4,000 level per student for the summer term. Typically, students from Ohio attending public universities need the most financial aid to offset the difference in cost.

Ohio students who attend public universities thus benefit the most from a state-funded scholarship program. In 2018, TWC's enrollment was 75% private university students. While some public university students are able to enroll in our program with a \$2,300 or \$4,000 scholarship, the scholarships are generally too low to attract many public university students.

With a \$350,000 appropriation for the next two years, we expect that 95 to 110 Ohio students could enroll each year, depending on scholarship levels.

We have great demand for our program from Ohio students. And by raising scholarship levels, we would have even more demand from public university students. To ensure that all students who apply to our program receive a state scholarship, which makes the program a reality for so many of them, a larger appropriation is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today and thank you for your past support of The Washington Center. I would be pleased to take any questions.