



**House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee**  
**House Bill 514 Proponent Testimony**  
**April 5, 2022**

Chair Lanese, Vice Chair Young, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 514. My name is Nicole Hoyer and I am the Assistant Director of Government Relations at Miami University.

Miami University is a nationally ranked public university serving over 20,000 students in Southwest Ohio. Focused on undergraduate studies and research, Miami provides a rigorous academic experience allowing high achieving, intellectually curious students to prepare for success. Our faculty guide students in conducting significant research, facilitating projects with real-world clients, and developing the leadership skills top employers seek most.

House Bill 514 will incentivize prospective and current students to live, learn, and work in Ohio. The programs included in HB 514 will support the recruitment of in-state and out-of-state students and contribute to the retention of these students after degree completion, while benefiting the state's economy.

**Recruiting and Retaining Excellence in Ohio**

As a public institution, we understand the importance of providing our students with a high quality education that will leverage their return on investment after graduation. 96.6% of 2019-20 Miami University graduates were employed, serving in the military, or furthering their education by December 2020. Based on response data, nearly 50% of the 2019-20 Oxford campus graduates stayed in Ohio after graduation. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship subprogram and personal income tax deduction for recent graduates would encourage the remaining 50% of undergraduate and graduate students to pursue employment in Ohio.

Miami University consistently ranks among the top of Ohio's public universities for our production of STEM graduates. The Choose Ohio First subprogram will provide additional support in our ability to attract more out-of-state STEM students to Ohio. Recruiting and retaining additional STEM graduates is vital now more than ever with Intel expanding to Ohio.

The subprogram will supplement the Choose Ohio First Scholarship pipeline for incentivizing out-of-state STEM graduates to stay and work in Ohio after they complete their degree. With more high tech companies now considering locating in Ohio, the state needs to grow and develop greater numbers of STEM graduates. The Choose Ohio First subprogram will assist the state in continuing to develop and grow its STEM workforce.

Students are presented with an array of potential employment pathways as graduation nears. The personal income tax deduction for the first three years post graduation will motivate students to explore the competitive career opportunities available in the state. This unique financial opportunity will be recognized as an advantage to accepting employment in Ohio. The tax deduction will also allow recent graduates to further contribute to the local economy as they will see more financial return in their paychecks. The personal income tax deduction will make Ohio more attractive to all university students as they determine their career path.

Collectively, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship subprogram and the personal income tax deduction will lead to long term financial stability for graduates who select Ohio as they work and establish their career.

### **Building Resumes with Paid Professional Experience**

Internships and work opportunities are a significant part of a student's higher education experience. At Miami University, seven out of every 10 seniors in the Class of 2019 were involved in internships or field work throughout their collegiate career. These opportunities add professional development experiences that enhance a student's resume while complementing their academic studies.

These experiences in the workforce bolster a student's resume and provide them with the opportunity to explore their career field of choice. These experiences also allow undergraduates to create professional relationships and networks that will benefit both the student and employer post graduation. According to student responses, approximately 47.5% of Miami 2019-20 graduates employed by December 2020 had previously worked for their employer. Allowing Ohio employers to claim a 30% tax credit on the wages paid to student interns will implore Ohio businesses to offer more paid internship opportunities to all Ohio college students.

The paid internship experiences created as a result of this tax credit will also lend support by allowing a group of students who cannot afford to take an unpaid internship the opportunity to gain professional experience while earning a wage. These paid

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experiences will complement Miami University's existing workforce development program, Work+. Participants in Work+ gain valuable work experience while still attending classes full-time, receiving an hourly wage, and employer paid tuition. The internship tax credit will further incentivize employers to participate in the Work+ program. It will also supply employers with more exposure to Ohio's best and brightest while simultaneously eliminating hurdles and exposing students to the professional opportunities available.

HB 514 will encourage prospective and current students from across the state and country to earn their degree and stay in state after graduation, leading to prosperous economic growth for Ohio. Thank you for your recognition of the important role higher education plays in Ohio and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.