

House Primary & Secondary Education Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

June 8, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Manning, Vice-chair Bird, Ranking member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Unfortunately, we hear too often that people don't use much of the knowledge that they learned in high school. Unless their profession requires it, you'll often hear them say things like "I couldn't tell you a thing about what I learned in algebra class", "I never used Pythagoras' Theorem a day in my life", or "what's the point in learning about quadratic equations if I'll never use them as an adult?"

Honorable Representatives, we cannot accept such a status quo. We cannot be content with teaching kids knowledge that people don't use in their adult lives just because "that's the way things are done."

I believe that Senate Bill 1 introduced by Senators Wilson and McColley is the first step in ensuring that education becomes about teaching students skills that they'll actually use as adults, rather than knowledge that they'll never use after they graduate. Credit scores, budgeting, investing, retirement savings. Every adult needs and uses this knowledge in their daily lives. Strengthening the financial literacy mandate is, therefore, a crucial step in our mission to improve our curriculum.

Senate Bill 1 is also about using education to solve society's most difficult problems *before* they happen, rather than waiting for them to become a reality. We wait for people's credit to become damaged when they're adults, blame them for their financial illiteracy, and then encourage them to attend credit repair classes at the end of a 10-hour workday when we could have solved the problem decades earlier by simply teaching them financial literacy in high school.

This bill would prevent and solve such problems because prevention is always better, and cheaper for the taxpayer, than cure.

This bill must be the beginning of a movement in which we make education relevant for students. Because you see, Honorable Representatives, the purpose of education is to prepare students for adult life, which means that we should be looking at every subject that is required for graduation and ask ourselves the following: "How is this preparing students for adult life?"

Thank you for your time in considering my testimony.



Respectfully,

Edward Patrick Akinyemi

The Financial Literacy Movement

<https://financialliteracymovement.com/>