

Committees:

Higher Education, *Ranking*
Member
Primary & Secondary
Education
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HB 659 Sponsor Testimony – House Primary & Secondary Education Committee

Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 659.

Proprietary schools, are typically advertised as an alternative option to traditional public education programs. The for-profit school may offer a message that declares their program to be accessible, affordable, and in demand. Whereas the outcomes they produce more than often fail to reflect their promises.

In 2017 the Ohio Education Policy Institute conducted a study to compare the graduation rates of students who attended Ohio's traditional public schools and those who attended charter schools. The study found that even when excluding dropout-recovery schools, the four year graduation rate of charter schools in Ohio fell just below 45 percent. Whereas the public schools of Ohio's six largest city's graduated 73 percent of their students.

On average, for-profit career college programs in Ohio cost more, leave students with more debt than programs offered through publicly funded institutions, and often result in their graduates earning less than the poverty threshold. The debt accumulated by Ohioans who choose for-profit career college programs arise from the comparably higher rates of tuition and a lack of regulations in regard to the distribution of state funds awarded to these institutions.

Ohioans who wish to enlighten and empower themselves through education deserve transparency.

HB 659 requires each K-12 community school with a for-profit operator, each for-profit career college or school (whether or not exempt from regulation by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools), and each for-profit barber school or school of cosmetology to post to a specified notice about the for-profit status of the school or institution.

Additionally, these schools and institutions must disclose on their official websites, all promotional digital and print media, and contracts for instruction the fact that they are for-profit business.

Furthermore, the disclosure must be made in a type size as large or larger than any other text on the school's or institution's website, the media, or the contract. It also must be presented in a manner reasonably calculated to draw the attention of the reader.

Ensuring the protection of consumers and students of Ohio requires us to hold for-profit education institutions accountable. HB 659 is a simple standard that will equip Ohioans with knowledge to better inform their journey of educational achievement.

Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee, I thank you for your time, and will be happy to answer any questions.