

March 15, 2021

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for allowing my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1 (SB1). I am a Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) teacher. After teaching many different subjects offered in the FCS curriculum in the state of Ohio, I was honored to teach a Financial Literacy course to high school students many years ago. I cannot stress how important this course is to all students.

In today's everchanging world we have an important job ahead of us to help our youth understand how to make responsible life decisions. Not only are they faced with the struggles of dealing with life during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are also facing life struggles related to family, school, social emotional health and future financial struggles. If we are to prepare students we need to help them make proper decisions to help them become productive members of society.

As a teacher I have seen such growth in many students and recall a few years ago a student saying in class "Mrs. Cudworth, I don't want to grow up, there are too many things I have to think about, like a job, money, school and other things." After taking my semester long Financial Literacy course, she proceeded to tell me "I think I'm going to be ok now, thanks to you I know how to manage these things." I continue to see success with this student and am happy to say she is college graduate and while in college started her own business, as a young African American woman. This is just one of the many success stories that I could tell you.

Supporting SB1, that encourages financial literacy education, will help provide students with the tools and resources needed to make informed decisions about their financial health and help provide productive citizens to our every changing world. We, as Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, are focused on providing "the knowledge you can't live without." Teaching financial literacy to all students will only help to provide students that extra push to help build and grow our economy.

Thank you for allowing me to heard on behalf of many Family and Consumer Sciences teachers, and as the Vice President of OATFACS (Ohio Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences), I ask that you consider my testimony in support of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sue Cudworth  
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