

House Bill 164 – Written Proponent Testimony
House Finance Committee, October 4, 2023

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Higher Education Committee, please accept my written testimony in support of House Bill 164 on behalf of the University of Cincinnati. I am Jack Miner, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management at UC. I oversee all university functions related to admissions, financial aid, registration, advising, and student services. I greatly appreciate the effort that House Bill 164 makes to close an important access gap for prospective UC students coming from our foster care system.

At the University of Cincinnati, we are proud to embrace our role as an urban public university. Under President Pinto's strategic direction, Next Lives Here, we are leading urban public universities to a new era of innovation and impact. This spans the entirety of our university operations, but plays a fundamental role into how we approach our work in Enrollment Management. Our goal is to expand the scope of our mission by increasing our impact across all of the communities we serve.

One of our pillars in Next Lives Here is Urban Impact. We know that the University of Cincinnati's well-being is inherently linked with the physical, environmental, social, and economic health of our community and city. Cincinnati, and its business, civic, education, and cultural offerings, provides us an opportunity to reach beyond our campuses to lead real-world learning, problem-based research and scholarship, and creative endeavors that address the multifaceted challenges affecting individuals and communities in our increasingly urbanized society. Urban Impact, through collaborations and partnerships with external counterparts, seeks to improve the human condition and advance sustainability for the institution, city, state, and world.

That brings me to House Bill 164, the Foster to College Scholarship program being offered by Representatives Jarrells and Seitz. We are tremendously grateful to the bill sponsors for identifying and addressing a significant need for our state. This legislation aligns perfectly with our vision for opening doors and impacting lives. Through this program, individuals from our state's foster care system may now have a life-changing opportunity to pursue postsecondary education and all of the benefits that come with it. Through both the funding and advising aspects of the bill, we believe there is a chance for generational impact right here in our community and across the state.

Education is a powerful tool for change. By creating opportunities for students to come to us after navigating through the foster care system, we believe we can equip students for a lifetime of success and prosperity. We heartily encourage this committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 164.

Sincerely,



Jack Miner
Vice Provost, Enrollment Management
University of Cincinnati