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Steve Demetriou
State Representative

Thank you Chairman Young, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Higher Education Committee, for allowing Representative Williams and I to talk about House Bill 151, also known as the Higher Education Enhancement Act. I would also like to say thank you to Senator Jerry Cirino, Sponsor of Senate Bill 83, for allowing us to introduce this important legislation in the House.

Transparency. Meritocracy. Equality. These three words clearly define what the Higher Education Enhancement Act will accomplish within our colleges and universities.

Transparency.

Our students and their parents should know what is being taught in classes they are paying good money to take. House Bill 151 requires colleges and universities to publicly post their syllabi online for each class. This requirement will not only ensure that fair and balanced subject matter is taught in our college classrooms, but it will also help bring a new level of transparency and modernization that will benefit our student bodies across the state. Additionally, the bill calls for more visibility on gifts from the Chinese Communist Party made to institutions of higher education in Ohio.

Meritocracy.

Our students matriculating at our colleges and universities deserve the best instructors possible. That's why we've created a fair and transparent tenure review process for underperforming professors. In no other

profession does an employee have almost no accountability to their employer or customer- yet that's what we've allowed to happen in our state colleges and universities. This fair and simple review process will only include tenured professors who are consistently underperforming. It's also important to note that these accountability measures outlined in House Bill 151 empower leadership at our state colleges and universities to address their own human resource issues.

Equality.

Colleges and universities in Ohio have limited themselves in how they think about diversity and equality. The scales have been tipped to favor some over others. As we all know, diversity impacts many facets of life- including speech and thought. The Higher Education Enhancement Act simply prevents a PUBLIC institution of higher education from taking a socially, politically, or religiously motivated stance on a subject, while still allowing professors and students to freely express themselves on campus.

Across the country, and certainly here in Ohio, institutions of higher learning have lost focus on their core mission which should include providing an affordable, yet excellent education, to its students in order to foster the next generation of leaders to drive our state and country forward.

Thank you for your time today and consideration of House Bill 151. We look forward to working with you all to bring transparency, meritocracy, and equality back to our colleges and universities in Ohio.