



**House Higher Education Committee
House Bill 219 Written Proponent Testimony
Ohio High School Athletic Association
May 1, 2024**

Chairman Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony today in support of House Bill 219. My name is Kristin Ronai, associate executive director for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

By way of introduction, the OHSAA is a private, not-for-profit, unincorporated association. Membership in the organization is completely voluntary, and we are currently made up of 818-member high schools and approximately 750-member 7/8 grade schools. 100% of Ohio's public school districts are members of the association, and approximately 20% of our membership is made up of chartered non-public schools. Our policies are approved by the membership as a whole and we are led by a governing board made up of individuals representing all segments of our membership demographic. The policy which brings us here today is our academic regulations, which requires student-athletes to pass five (5) credits, or the equivalent, at the end of each grading period.

We appreciate the bill sponsors, Representatives Bird and Brennan, and their willingness to include a provision in HB 219 that would require institutions of higher education to notify a student's high school when the student has withdrawn from a College Credit Plus (CCP) course. This is important for our student athletes because of credit requirements for participation in athletic activities. The dropped course may mean a student falls short of the required number of credits. If the school is made aware, it may be possible for them to assist the student with alternatives.

As you are aware, student participation in activities such as playing on a sports team can serve to enhance their overall educational experience and promote their positive growth in becoming a responsible citizen. This provision in HB 219 may help to remove unnecessary barriers to that end.

We would also suggest the addition of this notification requirement when a student has failed a CCP course for the same reason mentioned above.

Again, we support HB 219 and the requirement that schools be made aware of a student's withdrawal from a CCP course. We urge the committee to favorably report the bill. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.