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**House Higher Education Committee  
Sub SB 104 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Young, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 104, a bill aimed at improving the College Credit Plus program.

Senator Brenner and I introduced this legislation last year in direct response to Auditor Faber's 2021 report on the College Credit Plus program.

We believe that this program is one of our states most impactful educational tools and has been an asset to students and families since it was established by the legislature in 2015. For example, according to the most recent data from ODHE, over 80,000 students participated in the program and over 680,000 credit hours were earned in Academic Year 2022 alone.

Although it has been successful, improvements can always be made. For over a year, Senator Brenner and I have worked with the Auditor's office and many other interested parties to craft the bill that is before you today.

We believe that if passed, Substitute Senate Bill 104 will increase access and awareness of this program statewide.

There are a few key parts of the bill I would like to highlight that will help make College Credit Plus more accessible and properly promoted to students and their families.

The bill adds a November 1st deadline for students and their parents to sign up for College Credit Plus. Current law only allows students to sign up once a year for college credit plus (April 1st), but in hope of expanding the program and making it more accessible, students would have another opportunity in the school year to sign up for CCP.

The bill requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish an alternative credentialing process to certify instructors with relevant teaching experience as CCP instructors within six months of the bills effective date. Current law already requires the Chancellor to establish credential requirements to teach CCP. This alternative credentialing process is aimed at increasing the number of high school instructors who can qualify to teach CCP courses. With more qualified instructors at hand, students will have more opportunities to take their CCP courses at their own school, further expanding that opportunity.

The bill also includes measures to ensure that students and their families are being properly educated and made aware of this program. It requires the Chancellor and state Superintendent to monitor and enforce compliance with CCP requirements, requires the K-12 schools to use CCP forms developed by the Chancellor and the state Superintendent, and prohibits the K-12 schools from modifying the forms without prior approval from the Chancellor and state Superintendent. It also requires the Department of Education and Workforce to include on the state report card whether or not a public school provides information about and promotes CCP as required under continuing law.

In addition, the bill requires each public and participating private institution of higher education to provide CCP students with an orientation that meets guidelines issued by the Chancellor and the State Superintendent.

Finally, the bill requires the Chancellor and state Superintendent to collect data relative to the actual cost of CCP programming and submit it to the Auditor's office. The Auditor of State will then review and audit the data and submit a report to the General Assembly about their findings.

Sub. SB 104 passed out of both the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee and the Senate as a whole unanimously. We are also proud that IUC, OACC, and AICUO have all come out as proponents of the bill, something which rarely happens in the world of Higher Education.

In closing, reforming College Credit Plus to make it more accessible and widely known will support students and their families in taking those first steps to achieve the dream of earning a college degree.

Once again, thank you members of the committee for this me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.