



State Senator Jerry Cirino – 18th District
State Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
May 31st, 2023
Senate Bill 104 – Sponsor Testimony

Good morning, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Thank you for allowing us to present testimony today on Senate Bill 104. This legislation seeks to update the College Credit Plus Program by enacting a number of recommendations made in Auditor Faber’s 2021 report on the program.

The College Credit Plus (CCP) program was implemented through legislation in 2015 as a replacement for the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option Program (PSEOP). In the final year of PSEOP, approximately 190,000 credit hours had been taken. According to the Ohio Auditor of State’s 2021 Performance Audit of the CCP program, more than 76,000 students had participated in the program during academic year 2021, earning more than 650,000 credit hours. This amounted to an increase of 240% in credit hours achieved.

While the CCP program has provided many students success with advanced educational opportunities, the 2021 Audit also highlighted key areas that could be improved to further increase participation and successes within the program. This legislation would address a few of these areas including:

- Allowing students to sign up for CCP on a semester by semester basis, rather than by the 1st of April requirement in current law;
- Increasing access to CCP courses in the high school setting by increasing the credentialing of high school teachers;
- Requiring ODE and ODHE to develop uniform orientation program, while also requiring universities and colleges to provide an orientation to the CCP students;
- Requiring open-source course materials to be used when available.

The overarching purpose of this legislation is to ensure that Ohio high school students are able to get a jump start on their higher education under as efficient and effective a program as possible. Auditor Faber’s review of the current program highlighted a number of implementation measures that could be improved to better serve the many secondary and higher education institutions that partner to provide this program. As my joint sponsor and I have had and continue having conversations with members of the education community on this proposal, it is our sincere hope

that the final product will strengthen the College Credit Plus Program for all of our students. Members, thank you again for this opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.