



**Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
Senate Bill 104 Proponent Testimony
Ohio School Boards Association
Buckeye Association of School Administrators
Ohio Association of School Business Officials
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
June 7, 2023**

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 104. My name is Nicole Piscitani, lobbyist for the Ohio School Boards Association. Joining me for this testimony is Katie Johnson with the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, Paul Imhoff from the Buckeye Association of School Administrators and Barbara Shaner from the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators.

Our organizations represent public school district superintendents, treasurers/CFOs, business managers and other school business officials, boards of education, and secondary school principals from around the state. SB 104 proposes positive changes to the College Credit Plus Program, and on behalf of our members, we wish to thank Senators Cirino and Brenner for introducing this bill.

Since 2015, the College Credit Plus Program has provided students in all areas of the state the ability to earn high school credit and college credit at the same time, at no cost to the student. College credit is applied towards degrees and certifications providing students with the opportunity to earn both associate degrees and certifications while still in high school. Additionally, students who attend community colleges, four-year colleges and career technical schools after they graduate from high school can transfer the earned college credits towards their next degree.

The changes in Senate Bill 104 will further help the administration of the College Credit Plus Program. Our organizations appreciate the changes to the college textbooks provisions that will help minimize the costs of the program. School districts want to be good stewards of taxpayer

dollars and under current law have no decision-making in the textbooks that are required to be purchased for the students.

Additionally, our organizations are also appreciative of the alternative instructor credentialing provisions. This provision will help all schools provide additional college credit plus classes but specifically it will have a greater impact on rural schools that may have fewer college course options. When a school is able to provide the learning on the high school campus, it provides greater accessibility for students who may not have transportation to attend college classes on a local college or university campus.

In regards, to the student application deadline. Our organizations are in support of allowing mid-year enrollment for students to participate. However, we would prefer that state law sets specific dates.

Lastly, our organizations do have one suggested amendment to the bill. Current law does not require notification when a student drops a college class. Specifically, this is an issue when a student who takes college classes drops a course, and later in the year wants to participate in school athletics only to learn that they are now ineligible due to not taking the required five credits. Additionally, this amendment will be beneficial to all students, not just students who participate in athletics, to help alleviate any other issues that may arise from the dropped course. We would request that an amendment be added to the bill that would require a college or university to notify the student's school within five business days.

We urge the committee to approve SB 104 and the positive improvements to the College Credit Plus Program. This concludes our testimony. We will be happy to address your questions.