



**Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio
C. Todd Jones, President and General Counsel
Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee
February 28, 2024**

Thank you Chairman Cirino and Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee members for allowing AICUO to submit written testimony on behalf of Ohio's independent, non-profit colleges and universities in support of Senate Bill (SB) 104.

AICUO represents 51 independent, non-profit colleges all over Ohio. Located in every region of the state, our membership includes research universities, traditional liberal arts colleges, comprehensive universities, single-purpose institutions, and religiously affiliated colleges.

Independent colleges have a long history of offering dual-enrollment options in the state, including being a dual-enrollment leader before the current program was even created. Currently, 30 independent colleges participate in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. Many of our institutions are faith-based and offer an experience that a student cannot obtain elsewhere. AICUO members are also proud to serve many of Ohio's rural communities, providing college credit access to students who might otherwise be required to travel many miles or enroll online to have college access.

The substitute version of SB 104 makes some beneficial improvements to the program. By increasing flexibility in the enrollment periods, the bill will ensure that no student gets left out of the program just because they did not enroll by April 1. The more the state can do to increase students' access to the program, the better.

AICUO applauds Chairman Cirino, Senator Brenner, and Auditor Faber's support of the College Credit Plus program for current and future students.