



## **Adams County/Ohio Valley School District**

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Chairwoman Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson, and the House Higher Education Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dawn Wallace, Superintendent of Adams County Ohio Valley Schools (ACOVSD) and a member of the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools.

Our Coalition and its member superintendents are in favor of all provisions included in HB62.

Last school year, ACOVSD students earned a total of 3,071 college credit hours. Of these, 724 hours were earned on our high school campus taught by our credentialed faculty. The school district and teaching staff have invested time and resources to credential our staff members allowing students to take college credit plus (CCP) courses on our campus. This has allowed our students to not only earn college credits but also be a part of the high school experience. For a variety of reasons, some of our students choose to complete college courses online. During the 2023-2024 school year, ACOVSD students took 1,617 hours online. This is more than half of the total college credit hours earned.

These online courses do not require live synchronized interaction with students, and material can easily be reused from semester to semester. The staffing responsibility is not as great as in-person instruction. In fact, many times our district has to monitor kids for the period they are not in the CCP course with the other students while taking the same course online somewhere else. Students are also accessing the online course through the use of our district technology resources. Therefore, the cost charged to the ACOVSD school system should greatly be reduced, by well over \$100,000 as would be required by HB62,

Further, a second component of HB62 would require the use of free textbook resources when available. When such resources are not available for free through Open Source, HB62 would mandate the institution of higher education split the cost of textbooks with our school system. Last year, ACOVSD spent \$61,360.37 on textbooks for CCP. HB62 would at a minimum reduce this amount to half and likely even greater due to the requirement to use Open Source when available for materials.

Finally, it is important to note that while the online CCP course option is becoming more popular with high school students, it is having a negative impact on school culture because often some of the oldest, brightest and most engaged students are now not regularly on our high school campus. This results in a huge leadership void and fewer role models for our younger students.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity for testimony on this impactful legislation. If the committee has any questions I would be happy to address them.

