Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 62. I would also like to thank the sponsors, Representatives Pizzulli and Bird, for introducing this legislation.

My name is Evan Eagleson, and I am the Legislative Director for the Great Lakes Region with ExcelinEd in Action, a national non-profit organization focused on student-centered policies that improve outcomes in the states.

Employers in today's global economy value a range of postsecondary credentials. Industry-valued credentials, postsecondary certificates, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees each signify whether an applicant has the skills employers need. However, postsecondary education is increasingly expensive.

Accordingly, access to affordable dual enrollment opportunities such as the College Credit Plus (CCP) program can help high school students prepare for college-level work while they earn valuable credit toward a postsecondary credential.

This legislation attempts to further increase access to the CCP program by minimizing textbook costs through the use of open-source materials and requiring colleges to pay 50% of costs if no open-source materials are available. This would reduce some of the financial burden that students and families face when determining if they can afford to pursue dual enrollment courses.

Again, thank you to the bill sponsors and members of the House Education committee for your time and consideration. We are firm believers that every student can succeed if given the proper tools. Learners who participate in college acceleration opportunities are more likely to graduate high school, go on to college, earn college degrees on time and have reduced college costs.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure the future remains bright for Ohio's students.

Respectfully,

Evan Eagleson
Legislative Director, Great Lakes Region
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