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State Representative Johnathan Newman

Good morning! Chairwoman Fowler-Aurthur, Vicechair Odioso, Ranking Member Brennan, and Members of the House Education Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today as joint-sponsor of H.B. 326, which seeks to add the Classical Learning Test as an approved, nationally standardized admissions assessment in Ohio's institutions of higher learning.

Taking this step will be good for Ohio colleges and universities since there has been a groundswell of increased demand for classical learning among Ohio's parents and students. The Heritage Foundation lists 24 schools currently offering classical education in Ohio. Additionally, across the U.S. there are now more than 1,500 public, private, and charter schools serving nearly 700,000 students. It is projected that by 2035 that number could reach 2,600 schools, enrolling well over a million students. Taking this step will position Ohio institutions to attract those students.

Four other states have already recognized this smart move; Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas have adopted this policy for their universities. There are now more than 200 schools of higher education accepting the Classical Learning Test for admission. Additionally, there is a bill currently in the U.S. Senate seeking to make CLT available in our military service academies.

The Fordham Institute for advancing educational excellence states that classical education is no longer a niche solution for a negligible number of families and students. They've said,

"Classical education has become one of the brightest spots in the K-12 landscape. Families are flocking to these schools because of their rigorous liberal arts curriculum, their commitment to moral and intellectual formation, and their rejection of faddish pedagogies in favor of enduring works and ideas." <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/limit-classical-educations-growth>

Thank you for hearing our testimony today. Chairwoman Fowler-Aurthur and members of the committee, I ask that you give favorable consideration to this bill and will be happy to answer whatever questions you have as I am able.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnathan Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Johnathan Newman
Representative, House District 80