

October 13, 2025

The Honorable Sarah Fowler Arthur, Chairwoman  
House Education Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Hello. My name is Christopher Green, and I am an Associate Director at the [Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society at The Ohio State University](#). I testify today in favor of House Bill 326. While I cannot speak for either the Chase Center itself or for Ohio State as a whole, and I appear merely as an individual, I can offer one personal perspective on how accommodating students who have taken the Classical Learning Test (CLT) would strengthen Ohio's role in making America a more inclusive republic.

HB 326 would require Ohio's universities to accommodate high school students who take the CLT, an alternative to the SAT and ACT that since 2015 has emphasized the sorts of academic skills most appropriate to reading classic literature and historical texts. U.S. military academies, Florida's public universities, and hundreds of private schools like Hillsdale and Grove City already use the CLT as part of their admissions process. For some of its curricular offerings, the Chase Center hopes particularly to cater to classically-educated students. Ohio State can attract such students better if its admission process uses the CLT as well as other credentialing devices. The Chase Center already has a [mandate from the legislature](#) to "conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society." The use of CLT in Ohio State's admissions process would help us attract the students who would benefit most from such an education. The CLT would greatly assist Chase in helping Ohio State be a better version of itself.

My own scholarly expertise relates to constitutional theory and the Fourteenth Amendment. I have written extensively (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)) about the constitutional requirement for Ohio to recognize the equal status of all of its citizens, of whatever

political or religious creed. In particular, that means that Ohio must give impartial attention to the interests of all similarly-situated citizens in receiving the benefits of higher education at schools like Ohio State. Ohio's public officers and institutions have a duty as trustees with respect to which its entire citizenry are the beneficiaries. Trust law, of which the Fourteenth Amendment is an expression, has long required trustees to attend impartially to the interests of all beneficiaries. In the [words of the first Justice Harlan](#), the Fourteenth Amendment requires states to treat each citizen as a "component part of the people for whose welfare and happiness government is ordained." That means, in the words of the preamble of the [Civil Rights Act of 1875](#), giving equal civil rights "to all, of whatever nativity, race, color, or persuasion, religious or political." Or in the words of [Ohio State Trustee Horton in 1871](#), just after our University's founding, Ohio State's mission is "to educate American citizens—not farmer's servants, as in England; nor as machines, as in Prussia; but for every kind of life." We can do that best if we broaden the array of assessment tools we use in picking out which students are most ready for university education.

Thank you for your consideration.



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