



Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, ranking member Brennan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 326.

I am Michael Torres, policy director at Classic Learning Initiatives, which makes the Classic Learning Test — a valid and reliable college entrance exam, the CLT10, which is a PSAT/Pre-ACT alternative, and the CLT3rd through 8th grade assessments. All of our products are standardized and nationally norm-referenced assessments used by students in private, public, and home school settings.

This week is a momentous week for every team member at CLT for two reasons. First, we have the opportunity to introduce the CLT to you all. And second, because this week marks our 10th anniversary.

Ten years ago, our founder and CEO, who was previously a public school teacher and an SAT test-prep company owner, took an enormous risk in deciding to challenge the college admissions testing duopoly that has existed since 1959, when the ACT was created. When the SAT and ACT were again rewritten in 2014, many of the schools he worked with at the time were unhappy with the changes, but were frustrated because no alternative existed. So, he began to ask friends and colleagues whether he should create one – an assessment rooted in the liberal arts tradition, featuring beautiful and consequential written works as the reading material and a challenging math section that underscores logic, geometry and algebra, with no calculators allowed.

He freely admits that while most people saw the need, the responses he received were initially negative. Most thought he'd be crazy to try challenging the College Board, maker of the SAT, with its century of name recognition and billions of dollars on hand. Many even asked if doing such a thing was illegal.

But he created the CLT anyway with fewer than 100 students in the first testing cohort and only two colleges accepting the scores.

The following 10 years have proven that there is a strong desire for an alternative to the college admissions exam duopoly among students, families, and educational institutions. We now partner with 325 colleges and universities across the country, with an average of three new partner colleges accepting the CLT per month. And last year, we administered 184,000 CLTs alone with more than 200,000 projected for this year — up from about 20,000 just a few years ago.

The opportunity for us to meet this demand would not have been possible if not for policymakers in several states opening up state laws to allow for assessment choice. While, of course, it is not illegal to start a new college admissions exam company, the existing incumbents are built into



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state policies nationwide. Florida made the first move to change that in 2023, including CLT in numerous areas of state policies, including to qualify students for state-funded scholarships, meet high school graduation requirements, and qualify for dual enrollment. In 2025 so far, five additional states have joined in expanding assessment choice to include the CLT.

And that is exactly what this bill aims to do. HB 326 would provide Ohio students with the opportunity to choose to make use of the CLT, if they so desired.

We at CLT would be honored to have the opportunity to serve Ohio. And I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Thank you.