



Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors

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Testimony of Gretchen McNamara, D.M.A.

Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors

Before the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee

Representative Tom Young, Chair

May 20, 2025

Chair Young, Vice Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Piccolantonio, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the 7,000 faculty represented by the Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors (OCAAUP), I would like to express our support for House Bill 157, known as the “Hunger-Free Campus Act.”

As faculty, we interact with students every day. We hear about the many challenges that they face outside of the classroom that impact their ability to learn and to be successful inside of the classroom. Unfortunately, food insecurity is a problem that we see students confronting. Students cannot effectively learn and handle the rigors of higher education if they are hungry.

Another unfortunate truth is that sometimes the people teaching the students are facing similar issues. Part-time faculty, also known as adjuncts, are often paid poverty wages to teach courses. Adjuncts have been referred to as “freeway fliers” because they’re frequently spending significant amounts of time driving between institutions to piece together a living. Nationwide surveys and reports have shown that as many as 40 percent of adjunct faculty face food insecurity.¹

Faculty have been part of the efforts to find solutions. We applaud the measures that many of our institutions of higher education have taken already to address food insecurity, including establishing food pantries and helping students apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, with state support, there is more that can be done to expand these efforts and have a greater impact.

We encourage you to support this bipartisan bill. The timing is right to work with your Senate colleagues and include this act within HB 96, the state operating budget bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/media/2020/adjuncts_qualityworklife2020.pdf