



May 19, 2025

Washington State College of Ohio
710 Colegate Drive
Marietta, OH 45750

Testimonial in Support of Ohio House Bill 157 – The Ohio Hunger-Free Campus Act
Submitted on behalf of Washington State College of Ohio

Ohio House of Representatives Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

At Washington State College of Ohio, we witness daily the powerful connection between basic needs security and student success. While we are proud to offer a free on-campus Student Food Market, currently serving **15% of our student body**, we know the need is far greater. Our most recent data shows that **57% of our students are food insecure, and 54% are parenting students working hard to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.**

These students are doing everything right—showing up, working hard, and striving for a better future—but hunger is a barrier they cannot overcome alone. We hear from students who skip meals so their children can eat, who sit in class unable to focus because they haven't had enough food, and who quietly withdraw when their basic needs overwhelm their academic progress.

What's even more frustrating is that while we know the need is real and persistent, finding sustainable funding to support food access on campus is incredibly difficult. **Food insecurity isn't a "new" challenge**—it's an ongoing one. And because of that, it's often overlooked by grant funders who are seeking to fund the next new initiative. Year after year, we piece together local donations and small one-time grants just to keep our shelves stocked. But this model isn't sustainable. There simply are not adequate grant opportunities available to cover these ongoing, essential services for our students.

Ohio House Bill 157 recognizes what we have long known: solving student hunger takes more than short-term fixes. It takes **strategic, sustained investment**. This bill provides the kind of reliable support campuses like ours need to ensure that students can meet their basic needs and stay on track toward graduation.

On behalf of Washington State College of Ohio, we strongly support the Ohio Hunger-Free Campus Act and urge its passage. Hunger should never stand between a student and their future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Temple-Miller".

Kathleen Temple-Miller
Dean of Student Success
Washington State College of Ohio
ktemplmiller@wscc.edu