

1 Capitol Sq
Ste 2, Columbus, OH 43215
(614-466-5980)
ingram@ohiosenate.gov



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State Senator Catherine D. Ingram

9th Senate District
136th General Assembly

Sponsor Testimony – Senate Bill 47, Education Committee

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 47. This legislation is a reintroduction from both the 134th and 135th General Assembly's. Senate Bill 47 would require disclosure of the for-profit status of community school operators and post-secondary educational institutions on various promotional materials and contracts for employment

The for-profit education sector, while offering flexible pathways to education and training, has often been marred by misleading practices and a lack of accountability. In Ohio alone, nearly 100 for-profit institutions offer everything from technical certifications to associate and bachelor's degrees. While these schools provide opportunities for individuals seeking career advancement, they also pose significant risks when students are not fully informed about the true costs of tuition, job placement rates, and the real value of the credentials they earn.

There have been several high-profile cases that underscore the need for greater transparency in for-profit education. One such example is the collapse of Corinthian Colleges in 2015, once one of the largest for-profit education companies in the U.S. known for aggressive marketing tactics, Corinthian misled prospective students with inflated job placement rates and falsified graduation statistics. The U.S. Department of Education found that the institution had manipulated employment data, leaving many students with substantial debt and few career opportunities.

For-profit schools are businesses, and like any business, those engaging in fraudulent practices must be held accountable. Several states—including Florida, New York, Texas, Washington, and California—have already taken proactive steps to implement similar protections for students. As we continue to encourage Ohioans to pursue higher education and skill development, it is our responsibility to ensure that the education they receive provides real value and justifies their investment.

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, and members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you again for this opportunity. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.