

May 25, 2025

Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Elizabeth Black. I am an educator working in higher education in Ohio. I am here to urge the committee to restore Section 381.130 from Governor DeWine's proposed budget as introduced and to add the bipartisan HB 157 — also known as the Hunger Free Campus Act — to the state budget bill.

Section 381.130 would fund mental health services at Ohio's colleges and universities and HB 157 will fund food for students.

Many students on our college campuses are hungry and struggling with anxiety and other mental health challenges. These are getting in the way of their learning. When we can address these issues, I have witnessed students thrive and blossom into leaders. To solve the complex societal challenges before us, we need strong young leaders who are healthy physically and mentally.

I ask you to consider my testimony and restore the governor's proposed funding for mental health services at Ohio's colleges and universities and to add the bipartisan HB 157 to the state budget. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Black