



Before the
HOUSE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Proponent Written Testimony
Senate Bill 1

Emily Leite, Chief Advocacy Officer
Ohio Credit Union League
eleite@ohiocul.org | (614) 581-8460

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 1, which would further empower young Ohioans through financial literacy.

The Ohio Credit Union League is the state trade association representing the collective interests of Ohio's 243 federally and state-chartered credit unions and their more than three million members. With the "people helping people" philosophy at the heart of member-owned financial cooperatives, coaching young people and consumers to better understand and effectively manage personal finance is right in the credit union wheelhouse.

By further establishing financial literacy as a key curriculum building block in primary education, Senate Bill 1 will better prepare students for their future adult lives by providing the foundation necessary to build strong money habits early on and avoid future mistakes that can lead to lifelong financial struggles. Creating a financial resource in the high school financial literacy fund and enabling public-private partnerships to help deliver financial wellness curriculum sends a powerful signal of the state's commitment to help young Ohioans better influence their financial futures.

The Ohio Credit Union League and its member credit unions currently support statewide financial literacy efforts through financial education funding provided by the Ohio Credit Union Foundation, financial education partnerships with local school districts, student-run credit union branches located inside primary school buildings, involvement with the Ohio Jump\$tart Coalition, a student-run credit union learning laboratory at Miami University, and daily dedication to one-on-one member and family financial counseling. Ohio credit unions continue to be a trusted partner for Ohioans' financial literacy needs and remain a dedicated and expert resource for local school districts under the terms proposed in this legislation.

The League applauds Senators Wilson and McColley for their leadership in encouraging greater financial literacy opportunities for students across the state. Credit unions are committed to helping Ohioans towards greater financial wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 1, and I am happy to provide additional information or field questions in support of the Committee's important work.