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Chair Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Mary Jean Gosnell. I am a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Northeastern High School in Clark County and current President of the Ohio Association Teachers of Family And Consumer Sciences (OATFACS). I am here today representing OATFACS. OATFACS strongly supports SB 1 assuming that the final bill will require that every high school student have the benefit of a ½ unit, 60-hour stand-alone course in financial literacy that is based on the Ohio Learning Standards in Financial Literacy and the following:

- Exempting teachers who hold educator licenses in family and consumer sciences from requirements for additional validation of qualifications to teach financial literacy from the “licensure validation” required of Senate Bill 1 necessary to teach the .5 units of Financial Literacy required for high school graduation.
- Exempting teachers with a business education license from the “licensure validation” required of Senate Bill 1 necessary to teach the .5 units of Financial Literacy required for high school graduation.
- Exempting educators with an earned Ohio Adolescent Young Adult Integrated Social Studies License, issued on or after September 2013, would be exempt from the “licensure validation” required of Senate Bill 1 necessary to teach the .5 units of Financial Literacy required for high school graduation.
- Supporting a validation process to allow others to earn validation as they have never passed a licensure examination with financial literacy included on the assessment, and it is less likely they have received financial literacy training.
- Reducing the required electives from 5 units of instruction to 4-1/2 units.

As an FCS teacher for over 30 years, I have included personal finance practice and information in my classes over the years. I have taught a stand alone elective class in Personal Finance for about 10 years. I have had former students stop me at the grocery store to tell me how much they have used the information they learned in their Personal Finance class since graduation.

Students enjoy the class because they see the value in knowing how to manage their money. I have never been asked by a student “When am I ever going to use this?” Students need this information and it is our responsibility to give them the most up-to-date information we can. We believe the priority should be students, and working together to ensure that every student is guaranteed a semester long personal finance class to graduate.

I ask you to consider my testimony and support of SB 1 which will provide Ohio students, through a required ½ unit course in financial literacy, the knowledge and skills they will need to make wise financial decisions and to achieve their personal and career goals. Thank you again, on behalf of OATFACS for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Gosnell