

Chairwoman Manning  
Vice Chair Bird  
Ranking Member Robinson  
Members of the Primary and Secondary Education Committee

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 1. My name is Kylie Schmidt, I am a lifelong resident of Reading, OH and an alumna of Reading High School. Currently, I am entering my sophomore year at the University of Cincinnati. While attending Reading High School, I had the privilege of completing a personal finance course. The benefits of partaking in such a course are insurmountable and have granted me the ability to understand the importance of personal finance. This ability to receive a personal finance education is a blessing all students throughout the state of Ohio should have the opportunity to access.

When considering Ohio Senate Bill 1, the influence on individual lives personal finance has is an idea of major importance. I come from a middle-class family and am the daughter of divorced parents who now provide as single parents. Both my parents entered the workforce following their high school careers and were never given the opportunity to be taught proper personal finance. Due to their lack of opportunity to be educated on such a topic, the concept of personal finance was foreign to me. Had it not been for the personal finance course offered at my high school, I would have lacked vital tips, proper financial practices, and sufficient financial knowledge to most benefit myself financially.

In addition, I am a first generation college student. As a result, I entered the college search blindly, not sure which direction to pursue and which would be most logical. Being a child of a middle-class home had already limited me to attend a university close to home, to avoid the costs of out-of-state school. I had made this decision relatively early in my college search to avoid any financial hardship to my family. Regardless, my understanding of financial aid, loans, and student debt is thanks to my high school personal finance course. If I was not granted the opportunity to become familiar with networks such as FAFSA, my family and I would have been lost in trying to alleviate the costs of college.

I have found a passion for law, and wish to pursue law school upon graduation from undergraduate school. As well as the understanding of financial aid my high school personal finance course provided, I was also gifted with the proper ways to prepare myself financially for my future. In this regard, I was taught proper methods in budgeting, saving, and opening and maintaining my own checking account. I am able to sufficiently prepare myself for not only financial endeavours I endure now, but those that I will face in my near future. In learning how to navigate these tasks, I am building a life for after my schooling, building credit and saving money for my first house, marriage, and one day a family. I can safely speak for so many when saying if I hadn't known the most efficient and proper methods in building my financial future, I would only hurt my future self. One can not argue the influence, importance, and necessity finances plays in one's life.

High school offers us an education in English, Math, Science, and History, and while all vital, none are used as often as personal finance. The benefits I have received from a personal finance course helped me discover which direction I can take my life and how to engage in this future successfully. I am not alone in lacking a proper understanding of personal finance in my home life, as many of our parents were not granted the opportunity I was and the opportunity every child should be given now. The youth deserve to understand the concept of personal finance in order to gain a little more possibility and control of the destiny of their futures. The youth deserve to pursue their futures successfully, with an education on how to financially support their dreams.