



Representative Gail Pavliga
Ohio's 75th House District

House Bill 368 Committee Testimony

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Thank you to Chair Manning, all members of this committee and my cosponsor, Representative Bird, for this first hearing on House Bill 368. As having been a college professor for over twenty years, I'm pleased to support this legislation dealing with the College Credit Plus program.

The goal of House Bill 368 is to make appropriate changes to the College Credit Plus program that will grant school districts more local control regarding the weight of these courses as it pertains to a student's GPA.

As school district leaders and teachers know, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are often more exhaustive than College Credit Plus courses. Under the language of current law, weighted GPA for CCP courses is given the same grade weighting as AP and IP courses. House Bill 368 would effectively change that by allowing boards of education to use their expertise that relates to their local curriculum and weight high school courses accordingly – this gives them the chance to weight their courses higher or perhaps lower than CCP program courses based on that local decision.

I do believe from an educational perspective that we should empower our local school district leaders as they understand their curriculum most and can make their decision on how to weight these courses based on the class's difficulty and the understanding of the students' education.

And regarding students, additionally, this bill is going to potentially reward those students who put in that extra effort in taking more difficult courses as I'd expect several local boards to review their weighted options if this were to take effect.

Lastly, one important point I'd like to briefly highlight is that with this bill's implementation we expect some cost-savings. We see potential for school districts to save money if the district chooses to weight CCP courses lower than AP or IB courses. That could certainly lead students to opt for the more advanced courses instead.

Whether it's local school districts in Portage County such as Rootstown, Waterloo, Field, Kent, Southeast or any other districts throughout the state, we want to ensure their making these types of important educational decisions for their students and this bill accomplishes that goal.

Thank you all for allowing me to speak today and I'm open to any questions.