



February, 9 2021

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I am pleased to take this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 6. As the Dean of the College of Professional Sciences, I am writing in support of House Bill 6. This bill represents an important step towards ensuring that universities like Xavier University can continue to provide students with a sound and safe education while presenting them with a clear picture of their field's expectations, and seeing them through to graduation to become part of Ohio's workforce.

House Bill 6 helps create clarity and avoids penalizing students for forces well beyond their control. As you all know, our students were pulled off of campus last March and completed their semesters remotely. For education students, that meant they could not complete their field experiences in the way they had anticipated. We appreciated the flexibility and support of the Department of Education to address those issues quickly. By codifying that flexibility around the number of hours or weeks of field experience needed to be eligible for a teaching license or endorsement, you are helping to create some certainty, as we continue to navigate an uncertain situation. As we continue to do all we can to be prepared and agile during this academic year, we know that the pandemic continues to shift and challenge us. I am pleased to express our support here for House Bill 6.

Thank you to Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee for this opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation.

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