



S.B. No.1

3-12-21

Interested Party

Dear Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Lisa Diebel. I am an Associate Professor of Instruction at Ohio University and I am the program coordinator for the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Teacher Education Program for the past five years. I have also taught FCS in high schools and middle schools for the last 15 years, and continue to do so remotely. I am testifying as an Interested Party.

Ohio University is the only university in Ohio that is nationally accredited through The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). The whole department of Human and Consumer Sciences is umbrellaed under this accreditation (five different programs) at Ohio University, which I am a part of. Our FCS ED students are required to take three finance classes as part of their course work. These classes are:

- ECON 1000 - Survey of Economics *Credit Hours: 3.0*
- CONS 2500 - Families as Consumers in Global Communities *Credit Hours: 3.0*
- CONS 3950 - Consumer Resource and Financial Management *Credit Hours: 2.0*

ODE has a personal finance class that is within the FCS scope of teaching currently. It is a rigorous class that is for personal and family financial development. It is currently a 1 semester class. From a historical perspective, FCS has been teaching finance classes for years. It is a critical component of teaching FCS in schools. Students do appreciate and need the knowledge that they learn here for their futures. It is our duty to prepare them responsibly. Here is that course information:

Personal Financial Management--Subject Code: 091052 In this course, students will develop personal financial plans for individual personal well-being. Throughout the course, students will develop financial literacy skills to provide a basis for responsible citizenship and career success. Additional topics will include analyzing services from financial institutions, consumer protection, investing and risk management.

Every year, I hear from my Ohio University students that they wish they had taken a financial literacy class in high school. They do not understand how to budget, or the differences between a subsidized student loan and an unsubsidized loan. This is information that is critical before the fact, verses after the fact. They need this information to make wise financial decisions. All high school students should be required to take a personal finance class. We need to prepare our students for their futures. Financial literacy is crucial for their success in our world.

I implore you to consider my testimony as you deliberate on this important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Lisa Diebel

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