



Testimony before the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, regarding HB 110

May 5, 2021

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee. My name is Dr. Christine Denecker, and I am testifying as an interested party representing the Ohio Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships (OADEP).

Thank you, Chairman Brenner for this opportunity to speak to the aspects of HB 110 that affect College Credit Plus stakeholders. OADEP began as a grass-roots organization of dual enrollment practitioners and advocates in 2009 and is proud to be the first state chapter of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).

Our membership currently includes over 238 member institutions and 450 professionals who represent a diverse set of organizations including public and private school districts, community colleges, public and private universities, and homeschool parents.

Through its listserv, webinars, annual conference, and newsletter, OADEP actively

- Provides professional development for building and maintaining high-quality CCP programs;
- Disseminates information for best practices in CCP;
- Advocates for equity in access to CCP;
- Supports CCP instructor credentialing and training efforts;
- Serves as a collective voice at the state-level in regard to CCP legislation;
- Fosters strong partnerships between secondary and post-secondary institutions.

The comments I offer today are on behalf of the OADEP membership concerning HB 110, Section 3365.035, page 1223: Mature Subject Matter. Specifically, I would like to address the proposed legislation regarding the requirement of a permission slip for participation and a questionnaire to measure social and emotional maturity.

While OADEP's position is that CCP students are college students and should be treated as such, we acknowledge that fostering an awareness of what participation in college course work entails is an important step in assuring success among CCP students. Clear communication to students and parents of expectations, responsibilities, and the challenges of completing college courses while in high school is a must. Our membership is committed to this goal.

We recognize that the intent of the permission slip and questionnaire requirements are to increase communication and awareness; however, we would like to offer an alternative solution based on processes that are already in place.

All students participating in CCP must submit an Intent to Participate form prior to enrolling in CCP coursework. Instead of existing as a separate document, the permission language could be added to Intent to Participate form, which would be beneficial for a number of reasons:

- 1) The Intent to Participate is already in place and is an equitable process for sharing information and gathering consent;
- 2) CCP students often attend multiple institutions of higher education; dealing with a variety of permission slips across institutions could be confusing to students and parents and, thus, restrict access.
- 3) The Intent to Participate form is the first step for students when it comes to participation in CCP, so awareness of the potential for adult content would be at the forefront of the process.

Ultimately, embedding permission language into the Intent to Participate form would eliminate the potential confusion of multiple forms while still providing potential CCP students and their parents/guardians with information about what college-level learning may entail.

In terms of the questionnaire requirements, OADEP respectively suggests that this proposed language be eliminated from the legislation. As was mentioned in my previous point, students (and their families) are apprised of what is expected of them as college students in the Intent to Participate form, as well as in mandatory orientation sessions. The requirement that each institution of higher education craft a questionnaire to measure the social and emotional maturity of CCP students is of concern to our members for the following reasons:

- 1) If every institution of higher education is devising its own questionnaire, these documents will be wildly inconsistent;
- 2) There is no way to assure the validity of the questionnaires across multiple institutions;
- 3) Students who participate in CCP at a variety of colleges will have to fill out different surveys for each partner institution. In some cases, the students may be given the greenlight to participate; in other cases, the partner institution may deny participation based on survey results. This will increase confusion among students and families and could present a barrier to access.
- 4) Determining the social and emotional readiness of students to participate in CCP should be in the hands of the students, themselves, and their caregivers who know them best.

As is true of the members on this esteemed committee, the goal of OADEP is to provide Ohio students with transformational educational opportunities. CCP students are college students. Part of our job is to inform students and parents of the responsibilities of participating in college coursework prior to high school graduation. We are committed to providing this communication through Orientation Nights, advising, and documents such as the Intent to Participate form. We respectfully suggest that the permission slip process be streamlined through an addition to the

Intent to Participate form and that the questionnaire requirement be removed from the proposed legislation.

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education, the Ohio Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships appreciates the opportunity to participate in the conversation on Mature Subject Matter as represented in HB 110. I hope you find our organization's suggestions to be of value. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions you have regarding this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Denecker".

Christine Denecker

President, Ohio Alliance of Dual Enrollment Partnerships (OADEP)