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Honorable Tim Schaffer
Chair, Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee
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Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee,

I am happy to be before you today to speak on behalf of students in Ohio's University system on House Bill 337 and urge this bill's passage through your committee today.

To introduce myself, my name is Daniel Palmer. I am currently the Chief Justice of Wright State University's Student Government Association, and the Executive Director of the Ohio Student Government Association. As the Executive Director for the Ohio Student Government Association, it is my job to advocate for the over 400,000 students in Ohio's 14 public institutions. In my capacity as Chief Justice and Executive Director, I have testified before the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee several times when bills directly affect the students of Ohio.

Since last year, myself and members of the Wright State Campus Community set out to bring about change for students in regards to textbooks. In our plan, we had a multi step approach to comprehensively bring down textbook prices. One program was Inclusive Access that saved students north of \$50,000 in nine classes this semester. This program will be expanded to 40 classes this fall with projected savings of nearly \$400,000. We have also emphasized Open Educational Resources and implemented an "Auto Adopt" policy. The last portion of our plan was to eliminate sales tax on textbooks.

This bill is one that will greatly impact students in a quest for a more affordable college experience. Many groups support this bill and have passed resolutions expressing this including:

- Wright State Student Government
- Wright State Faculty Senate
- Wright State Board of Trustees
- Ohio State University Student Government
- Ohio State University Faculty Senate
- Cleveland State University Student Government
- Ohio Faculty Senate
- Faculty Congress of Ohio

These groups represent tens of thousands of educators and students across the State of Ohio.

I draw your attention to House Bill 116, a bill that became law and removed the sales tax on optical aids. This bill will cause the state to lose \$22.4 million to the General Revenue Fund, an \$800,000 loss to local government and public libraries, and a \$6 million loss to counties and transit authorities in FY 2020.¹ This totals to an impact of \$29.2 million.

I also highlight Senate Bill 9, a bill that also became law and established the sales tax holiday. This bill has a General Revenue Fund loss of \$14.7 million, a \$500,000 loss to local governments and public libraries, and \$3.7 million loss to counties and transit authorities this fiscal year.² This equates to a total impact of \$18.9 million.

To compare to the bill in question today, House Bill 337 will cause a \$21.2 million loss to the General Revenue Fund, an \$800,000 loss to local governments and public libraries, and a \$5.4 million loss to counties and transit authorities.³ This will lead to a total impact and loss of \$27.4 million in FY 2019.

The fact of the matter is that the impacts of House Bill 337 are less than that of House Bill 116. While I support the idea of exempting eyeglasses, there is no limit to the exemption. This means that a set of luxury frames will not be taxed.

College textbooks are needed for one to succeed in classes. Study after study shows that those with textbooks perform better. If we do not place a tax on college tuition, why place one on college textbooks?

The affordability of college and textbooks is a major issue facing the youth of our country. Passing this bill will move us to the majority of states that already do this and give more students the opportunity to succeed.

The hundreds of thousands of students in Ohio are counting on your vote today. I truly hope you consider voting in favor of this bill.

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

¹ Fiscal Note and Local Impact Statement, House Bill 116: Jean J. Botomogno, Ohio Legislative Service Commission. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=7644&format=pdf>

² Fiscal Note and Local Impact Statement, Senate Bill 9: Jean J. Botomogno, Ohio Legislative Service Commission. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=7413&format=pdf>

³ Fiscal Note and Local Impact Statement, House Bill 337: Jean J. Botomogno, Ohio Legislative Service Commission. <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=8289&format=pdf>