

**Committees:**

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**Boards and Commissions:**

Ohio Latino Affairs  
Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community  
Development

***Jessica E. Miranda***

*State Representative*

**Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 597  
Civil Justice Committee  
December 03, 2020**

As my colleague said HB 597 will only halt debt collection and accrual of interest to entities that the legislature has authority over which are any state operated hospitals or institutions of higher education.

Representative Ingram and I are not seeking to halt debt collection for any reason other than medical or student debt.

As we all know, the accrual of fees and interest on this debt negatively impact students and families in normal circumstances. However, the constantly increasing size of debt during an unprecedented pandemic may make the prospect of future financial stability impossible. For this reason, this bill is so important. We must halt the accrual of these fees and interest throughout the duration of the COVID-19 emergency period so as to put Ohioans in the best possible position to manage their financial future post pandemic.

In this unprecedented health crisis we must resolve to provide relief to as many people as possible. And while we cannot stop all medical and student debt collection in the state of Ohio we can certainly halt the state's or state affiliated entities' collection of debt.

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Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and all other members of the House Civil Justice Committee I thank you for your time and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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