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Good morning, Chairman Kunze, Vice Chair Gavarone, and Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Senate Bill 120. SB 120 authorizes the Auditor of State to conduct performance audits of any and all state institutions of higher education.

Currently, the Auditor is only able to perform one audit per biennium, and this legislation would lift this limit. In the first higher education performance audit, the Auditor of State's office identified four areas where Ohio State University could improve its efficiency with a total potential savings of \$6.4 million per year. This performance audit was limited to printing and IT services. This example serves as only one of many potential for our institutions. If the cap continues at its current level of one per biennium, it would take over 50 years to get a performance audit for all the institutions of higher education in the state.

Performance audits serve an essential function by finding ways to make state government more efficient and effective. Financial audits look backward into an entity's books, but performance audits look forward and provide a roadmap for future savings and efficiencies. The intent of this legislation is to allow universities in our state to identify potential savings and make their organizations more efficient. A better, more efficient higher educational institution not only benefits itself, but its students and by extension our working families.

We'd like to thank the members of the Higher Education Committee for allowing us to testify today. At this time, we'd be happy to answer any questions the committee members may have.