

Chair Young, Ranking Member Miller, and all honorable members of the House Higher Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for H.B. 27. Along with countless others, I have always known that I wanted to attend college and to make the absolute most of it when it came to academics, extracurriculars and getting the most out of the money I, my family, and my countless hours of work to earn scholarships, will spend to obtain my degrees. One of the biggest factors that kept me in Ohio when looking at universities to possibly attend was the lower cost for being in state. I say lower as college at this time is nowhere near being low in cost. With the average cost continuously rising, students such as myself cannot afford to not know how much we will need to pay to get our degrees. It isn't the difference of a few hundred dollars but the difference of thousands or easily tens of thousands.

I have been lucky enough to work for and earn many scholarships to help make my education and ambitions achievable, and going into college already expecting and knowing what I would be paying helped a lot when it came to understanding what I could afford to do. All of that relief first came with Miami University being decently transparent with their scholarships, specifically academic scholarships. By having the chance to see what the bare minimum of scholarships I would receive from the institution, I was able to know that Miami University was going to give me the opportunity to pursue my degrees while also allowing me to sleep easy knowing that I will not be graduating without debt.

As students and growing adults it becomes our responsibility to learn how to and manage our financial decisions and to decide the pros and cons of the money we are choosing to spend, but this is only possible for us to learn when we are given the financial transparency we need to make informed and educated decisions.

I urge you all to implement financial transparency into higher education for the sake of students everywhere who are working tirelessly to become professionals without drowning in debt first. Allowing us to graduate, get to work, and begin to put our earned salaries into Ohio's economy instead of into debt payment programs. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.