

Brittany Glenn

March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Gayle Manning, Ranking Members: Dontavius Jarrells, Willis Blackshear, Jon Cross, and Bob Young; and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education:

My name is Brittany and I am a social work student attending the Ohio State University. I am a member of the Ohio Student Association and I reside in the Columbus area. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 33.

Over time, the State Share of Instruction has been underfunded. Tuition costs are continuing to rise and the proposed three percent increase is unlikely to keep up with inflation. This is adding to the gap between those who can and cannot afford college. In social work, we learn about the enormous gap between advantaged and disadvantaged populations. A more equitable education system will help close this gap and give everyone a chance at a higher education, which will allow for economic justice and increase generational wealth among communities of color.

The proposed increase in the Ohio College Opportunity Grant is much needed, however, it does not assist students with additional costs, such as books, supplies, and housing. OCOG needs restructuring into a first-dollar grant to anticipate the costs of being a student. This will help knock down additional barriers to getting an education. This brings us back to equity and ensuring each person has equal opportunities and outcomes.

Sincerely,

Brittany Glenn